

Jordan Times

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S. Yemen-Oman talks begin today

MUSCAT (R) — A South Yemeni delegation arrived in Muscat Saturday for talks with Omani officials in a fresh effort to settle a long-standing border dispute. The session, due to start Sunday, is the third since Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) mediated a 1982 agreement between South Yemen and Oman to end more than 15 years of hostility. Aden and Muscat agreed in 1983 to exchange ambassadors, but this has not so far happened, due partly to the continuing dispute over the border, diplomats in Muscat said. An Interior Ministry under-secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel Abdel-Wase' Salem, is heading the South Yemeni delegation. The official Aden news agency quoted Col. Salem as saying the talks, to be attended by representatives from Kuwait and the UAE, reflected the determination of both sides to implement the 1982 accord.

Fateh to 'counter' death threats

TUNIS (R) — The Central Committee of Fateh, the largest group within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), will act to counter assassination threats against Palestinian officials, Palestinian sources said Saturday. They said the decision was taken during a two-day meeting here of the Fateh Central Committee, following the murder in Amman last month of a member of the PLO Executive Committee, Fahd Al-Jawasmeh. The meeting, chaired by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, also discussed prospects for an Arab summit, the sources said. Mr. Arafat arrived in North Yemen early Saturday in a further move to seek support for the convening of the summit, postponed as a result of inter-Arab differences. The Fateh Central Committee also reviewed proposals by King Hussein for a joint approach in the search for a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis, they said.

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Ramadan sends cable of thanks to Obeidat

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat received a cable of thanks from Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of establishing the Iraqi Army. In his cable Mr. Ramadan said the Iraqi Army, "which has been victorious over the Iranian aggressors over the four past years and foiled all the conspiracies directed at the eastern flank of the Arab World will continue its struggle." He also expressed his pride and appreciation of the brotherly relations between Jordan and Iraq under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Mubarak returns to Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak returned here Saturday after a two-day visit to Greece and an unexpected one-night stopover in Rome due to a sandstorm in Cairo, the Middle East News Agency said. While in Italy, the Egyptian president met with President Sandro Pertini, Premier Bettino Craxi, and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

N. Yemeni leader arrives in Aden

ADEN (R) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh arrived unexpectedly in Aden Saturday for talks with South Yemen's President Ali Nasser Mohammad on coordination policies towards Arab and world developments. They met privately on ways to speed up plans for merging institutions of the two countries, as well as coordinating policies, the Aden News Agency said. Eyewitnesses reported the two presidents also toured Aden without guards in a car driven by the South Yemeni leader.

More arrests expected in India

NEW DELHI (R) — Ten people have been arrested in a spy scandal which led to the resignation of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's top aide and more arrests are expected, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Saturday. Intelligence sources said those arrested were suspected of passing information about armaments deals and the minutes of crucial cabinet meetings to an unnamed Western power. PTI said. The news agency said eight government officials and businessmen were arrested Friday on suspicion of spying and two more were rounded up Sunday. It quoted intelligence sources as saying further arrests were likely (Further story on page 8).

U.N. team visits Iraqi POWs

LONDON (Agencies) — A United Nations team Saturday visited the Gurgan camp for Iraqi Prisoners of War (POWs) in northern Iran where several Iraqis were shot dead last October. Iran's national news agency IRNA, received in London, said the team inspected various sections of the Gurgan camp as part of a week-long fact-finding mission to Iran.

Obeidat to brief House on security considerations Deputies to debate amended passport law in closed session

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday endorsed a suggestion by Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat to convene a closed session within the next two days to discuss the amendment of a controversial passport law previously rejected by the House.

The law, which stipulated that no Jordanian passports are to be issued or renewed until after the approval of authorities defined by the Ministry of Interior, was earlier rejected by the House and passed to the Upper House (Senate) which endorsed it after an amendment. The amended law was returned to the House for discussion after the amendment, which stipulated that only Jordanians living abroad are required to obtain the approval of the specified authorities when applying for or renewing passports.

Mr. Obeidat suggested that a

closed session be convened for the government to be able to "clarify the details of security reasons that called for the Senate's amendment (of the law) and necessitate the House's endorsement." He said: "This law concerns the security of the Kingdom and that is why we insist that we inform deputies on the security details so that they will be aware of the consequences of its abolishment."

Deputy Leith Shbeilat, commenting on Mr. Obeidat's suggestion, said the government has explained that the passport law was issued during the parliament's summer recess because of the urgency of its implementation.

"When we met with the interior minister, we thought he gave us all the reasons that prompted the issuing of the law. However, I now hear that the government intends to provide us with more information. I ask now why the government did not give us all the information from the very beginning?" Mr. Shbeilat asked.

"I urge the government to hold a session tomorrow to listen to these information and to settle this problem soon," he added. It was not immediately known whether the closed session would be held Sunday or Monday.

Mr. Obeidat, in response to a letter of thanks from House Speaker Akef Al-Fayez, said the government "will continue its steady policy on all levels to enhance self-dependency and upgrade efficiency in administrative capabilities."

Mr. Fayez had sent a letter thanking Mr. Obeidat for the government's "continued perseverance of a steady policy to rectify the wrong and develop the country's

economy." Participating in a heated debate on whether the government's answers should be read to the House or delivered individually to the inquiring deputy, Mr. Obeidat said it was the right of deputies to hear the government answers and that if a certain deputy was not interested to hear the answer read, "there are other people who want to hear the answers."

After hearing an answer by the Ministry of Education on his inquiry on the shortage of teachers in the Karak Community College, Deputy Riyadh Nawaiseh expressed dissatisfaction with the answer and said it ignored the main points included in his inquiry.

He said a programme referred to in the ministry's answer for classes at the college was not adhered to by the college's administration which resulted in the failure of students to complete the scheduled curriculum in the first semester.

(Continued on page 3)

Jordan to increase imports of Iraqi oil

BAGHDAD (R) — Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al-Anani said Saturday Jordan wanted to increase oil imports from Iraq this year, currently accounting for one-sixth of the country's needs.

Dr. Anani told Reuters-Jordao was importing 10,000 barrels per day (b/d) under an agreement signed last year.

The minister, in Baghdad to attend a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation, said the Jordanian government wanted to renew the agreement with a higher level of imports for 1985, but he gave no precise figure.

Dr. Anani met Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, and said later they had discussed a proposed pipeline to carry one million barrels of Iraqi oil daily for export through Aqaba.

"We slightly touched upon the Iraqi oil pipeline through Jordan and stressed that the project

would not commence without the requested guarantees," he said. The 950-kilometre project, with an estimated cost of \$1 billion, is being held up while guarantees are sought that Israel will not attack the pipeline.

Iraq's Oil Minister Qassem Ahmad Taqi said last August foreign institutions financing the project would be repaid in oil to put pressure on Israel and guarantee its security.

Dr. Anani said: "There were no changes in the question of guarantees and we agreed to keep the project's file open until this problem was solved."

He said the joint cooperation committee met Saturday co-chaired by Dr. Anani and Iraq's Trade Minister Hassan Ali to discuss ways to boost bilateral trade, currently running around \$170 million annually each way.

Dr. Anani said the committee would explore new fields of trade cooperation and draw up a list of new commodities to be exchanged.

Jordan may seek probe into Falasha airlift

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al-Masri told the Lower House of Parliament Saturday that Jordan may ask the Arab League to set up a fact-finding mission to look into the airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

Mr. Masri said the Jordanian government was seriously following up the issue and that the government was in close contact with Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi. The foreign minister said he would meet on Sunday with Mr. Klibi to discuss the evacuation operation.

"The Jordanian government is against any Israeli immigration of Jews from any country, whether it is a foreign country or an Arab country," Mr. Masri said.

Mr. Masri did not say where he planned to meet with Mr. Klibi but informed sources said the foreign minister was expected to fly Sunday for Baghdad to participate in meetings of a seven-state Arab League committee entrusted with the task of finding a solution to the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Klibi is already in the Iraqi capital to prepare for the meeting and it was speculated that Mr. Masri would meet the Arab League official in Baghdad.

Both Sudan and Ethiopia have denied involvement in the secret Israeli operation to airlift Ethiopian Jews, also known as Falashas, who fled drought-stricken Ethiopia to neighbouring Sudan from where they were transferred to Israel.

Unsubstantiated reports say that over 20,000 Falashas reached Israel through the covert operation, which the Jewish Agency called off because of the massive publicity it attracted. The agency is responsible for luring Jews from all over the world to emigrate to Israel.

Arab League and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials have attacked the airlift, which they see as an attempt to increase Jewish population in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Karami: Naqoura talks resume Tuesday

BEIRUT (AP) — Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced Saturday that suspended Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal talks would resume Tuesday at U.N. headquarters in the South Lebanon town of Naqoura.

Mr. Karami's statement came after an hour-long meeting among himself, President Amin Gemayel and U.N. Under-Secretary-General Brian Urquhart, who has been shuttling to Israel, Syria and Lebanon to get the negotiations underway again.

Mr. Karami indicated Israel had at least partially met Lebanon's demand for providing a timetable for its planned withdrawal.

"We know that the date for the first stage has been set," he said in

an address broadcast on government radio. "As for the other two stages, the second one could be in April."

Israel has already announced that the first stage of its withdrawal — from the Awali River just above Sidon to the Litani River — would be completed in mid-February.

"But for the third stage," Mr. Karami said, "there is no specific time yet but we hope that all these dates will be fixed in the official talks in Naqoura."

Mr. Urquhart refused to tell reporters the substance of his discussions, but he added: "I think there are some very helpful elements in what we have discussed, and I very much hope that in the

next day or two, that will become apparent."

The U.N. diplomat said he would be going to London to report on the talks to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, but officials in Jordan said that Mr. Urquhart was expected in Amman first for meetings there, possibly including one with King Hussein.

Mr. Karami said Mr. Urquhart had discussed information he got both in Syria and Israel. Syria has had wide influence over Lebanon since the collapse of U.S. diplomacy here in early 1983.

"We had nothing to add to what he said regarding the Israeli withdrawal," he said.

(Continued on page 3)

Arab team meets today in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — An Arab League committee charged with seeking a peaceful end to the 51-month-old Iran-Iraq war is scheduled to open a meeting here Sunday to review its efforts in the Arab and international levels to pressure Iran into accepting mediation bids to end the conflict.

The seven-member committee includes the foreign ministers of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Tunisia, Morocco and North Yemen in addition to Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi.

Following decisions adopted at its last meeting in Baghdad in August, members of the committee toured various Asian, and Eastern and Western European capitals in a bid to seek the support of those countries to pressure Iran, which has refused to accept any mediation bid to end the war, into responding positively to peace efforts. The committee is expected to review the results of the tour and also come up with a new plan to end the war through peaceful means.

The focus of the committee's efforts has been to urge Asian and European countries not to supply war-related material and equipment to Iran and to reduce commercial deals with Tehran.

Foreign ministers and representatives of member states of the committee joined Mr. Klibi in the Iraqi capital Saturday



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday holds talks with U.N. Under-Secretary General Brian Urquhart (third from left) in a meeting attended by Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh (second from left), Foreign Minister Taher Al-Masri (right), and an aide to Mr. Urquhart (Petra photo)

King, Urquhart discuss Israeli pullout, Mideast conference

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein held talks Saturday with United Nations Under-Secretary General Brian Urquhart on the Israeli plan for a phased withdrawal from South Lebanon and the issue of convening an international Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Urquhart, who arrived here from Beirut after talks with Lebanese leaders, said he was here to discuss the outcome of his tour with Jordanian officials and to know the Kingdom's feelings on "issues of common interest."

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Urquhart said "we do not have a formal agenda" for discussions but "it is a good opportunity to hear the Jordanian view on various issues."

He said he hoped to "see progress" in the Naqoura talks between Lebanon and Israel which

will start Tuesday. "I have a feeling they (the Israelis) are going to go ahead with their plan to withdraw," the U.N. official said.

Mr. Urquhart was quoted as saying by senior Israeli officials Thursday that the Lebanese and Syrian governments "still had doubts about Israel's intention to withdraw fully from southern Lebanon."

Israeli officials said they responded to Mr. Urquhart that the Lebanese and Syrians were "completely out of touch" with the "reality" of what Israel intended to do.

Mr. Urquhart told the Jordan Times Saturday that he discussed the Israeli withdrawal plan with leaders in the area and that "we have to wait and see what happens on Tuesday." He said "I am here to make sure we achieve some progress."

Asked whether he was optimistic with the latest developments in the area, particularly

the planned Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon, Mr. Urquhart said: "I am never optimistic."

Announcing its intention of withdrawal, Israel has warned that if Lebanon and Syria did not take control of the areas Israel plans to evacuate by Feb. 18, there would be chaos and killing between Lebanese factions.

According to Israeli sources, Mr. Urquhart told the Israelis that the Lebanese were still demanding a "comprehensive and detailed" Israeli timetable for their withdrawal from Lebanon.

The Syrians and Lebanese were apparently concerned that the Israelis would just make a token pullback in western Lebanon and then shut into a new line.

Mr. Urquhart said he was scheduled to visit Amman Friday but was delayed due to the bad weather. He plans to leave Amman Sunday.

Jordan gets \$56 million IMF credit to offset export shortfalls

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a medium-term loan of \$57 million special drawing rights (SDR) to Jordan to compensate for a shortfall in the Kingdom's export revenues in the year ending last June.

Confirming the IMF announcement in Washington late Friday, Central Bank Governor Mohammad Sa'id Al-Nabulsi said in Amman Saturday that the loan, which is equivalent to \$56 million, was requested by Jordan three months ago. An IMF mission also visited Jordan to follow up on the application. Dr. Nabulsi said.

The Central Bank governor dismissed an Israel Radio report early Saturday that the loan was granted to Jordan to boost the

Kingdom's foreign currency reserves. Dr. Nabulsi pointed out that the loan, which carries 6.6 per cent annual interest, was granted to Jordan explicitly under the "export compensatory credit" facilities offered by the IMF. It was the first time Jordan obtained an IMF loan under this category, he said.

"We have benefitted from IMF facilities in various other forms previously, but this is the first time Jordan has obtained a loan under the export compensatory credit facility," he said.

The loan, which is repayable in five years, will be directly credited to the Ministry of Finance, he added.

Friday's IMF announcement in Washington said the loan was granted to Jordan to compensate for a shortfall in earnings from exports.

tourism and remittances from Jordanian citizens working abroad. It pointed out that prices of Jordan's phosphates, the Kingdom's main exports, have been low while prices have gone up for the grain Jordan has to import from other countries.

These imports cost 46 per cent more to the year ending last June than for either of the two preceding years, the IMF announcement said.

The IMF also approved on Friday a stand-by loan of \$75 million to Senegal to help the drought-hit African country rebuild its economy. Announcing the approval of the loan for Senegal, the IMF said that despite one of the severe droughts in recent years, the country had succeeded in achieving all its goals for economic reform in the last financial year.

Iraq says ship hit near Kharg

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi jet fighters raided and "scored a direct hit on a large naval target" near Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal Saturday, an Iraqi military spokesman announced.

The spokesman, reading a communique over the state television, said the jet fighters which launched the attack returned safely to base.

The spokesman said the vessel was attacked at 1745 hours (1445 GMT). In Iraqi military parlance, the term large naval target usually refers to an oil tanker.

The raid brought to 14 the number of ships reportedly attacked by the Iraqi forces while plying Iranian ports since Jan. 1 this year.

U.N. chief seeks formula to save Cyprus negotiation

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. secretary general was Saturday working on a formula to keep Cyprus reunification negotiations alive, according to sources close to the talks between the leaders of the island's communities.

Javier Perez de Cuellar was expected to present Greek Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash with a formula at what was likely to be a final meeting later Saturday. The talks began on Thursday.

One source said any formula was likely to provide for further talks later this year.

But another said the Turkish Cypriots would probably object to an adjournment in order to allow time for more negotiations on a draft they regarded as final.

The draft proposes a new power-sharing system in which

separate provinces or states for the long-estranged communities would be linked to a central government with a Greek Cypriot president and a Turkish Cypriot vice president.

It was compiled at three rounds of so-called "proximity talks" here last autumn during which the secretary general held separate meetings with Mr. Kyprianou and Mr. Denkash.

Their meeting here this week was their first face-to-face encounter in nearly six years.

Mr. Kyprianou, who heads the present Greek Cypriot-led government in Nicosia, regards the plan as a working paper subject to further negotiation and revision.

Mr. Denkash insists the document is final and that it only remains to set up working groups on the details and establish timetables.

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U.S. says funds not for West Bank settlements

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has said it was trying to ensure its funds did not support Jewish settlement in the Israeli-occupied West Bank following reports that Ethiopian Jews had been housed there.

Israeli diplomatic sources said that about 60 black Jewish families, among thousands brought to Israel from drought-hit Ethiopia, had been sent to Kiryat Arba in the West Bank.

State Department spokesman Alan Romberg said Washington regarded all Jewish settlements on the West Bank as unhelpful and an obstacle to peace.

"The United States makes every effort to ensure that U.S. government funds are not used for settlement activity on the West Bank," he said.

He did not confirm press reports in the United States and Israel that Washington had expressed concern to Israel about the settlement of Ethiopian Jewish refugees in the West Bank.

American officials in Israel told Reuters however, that the U.S. had told Israel it should not use U.S. aid to settle Ethiopian Jews

in the West Bank and Golan Heights.

Mr. Romberg was also asked about reports that the United States had helped fund an airlift to evacuate several thousand Ethiopian Jewish refugees to Israel.

The deputy spokesman, conducting his final briefing, told reporters that any questions regarding the Ethiopian Jews and their resettlement should be addressed to the government of Israel.

"As to monies provided," he said, "the Department of State, in fiscal year 1985, has provided a 15-million-dollar grant to the United Israel Appeal. These funds will be used in Israel by the Jewish Agency for the resettlement and absorption of refugees in Israel, including those from Ethiopia."

Secretary of State Shultz appeared during the regular midday news briefing to personally present the retiring deputy spokesman with a letter of appreciation from President Reagan.

"I think everybody here knows that this is Alan's last briefing," Mr. Shultz told the packed State Department briefing room. "He has performed with great ability and force of intellect and integrity."

The secretary read the following letter:

Dear Alan, I am pleased to express my appreciation for the job you have done as deputy press spokesman for the Department of State. For three and one-half years, yours has been one of the ablest of voices explaining American foreign policy to the media and the public at large. I greatly admire the dedication and ability you have brought to this endeavour. Please accept my best wishes for your continued success in the future.

Sincerely, Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Romberg, who has served in the foreign service for the past 20 years, will join the Council on Foreign Relations in New York as its senior fellow on Asian affairs.



DEPUTIES SWORN IN: Riad Al Shaka (left) and Mufeed Mubaslat, the two newly-elected members of Lower House of Parliament to represent Nablus, are sworn in Saturday during a regular session of the House (Petra photo)

Hassan to visit Western Sahara

RABAT (R) — King Hassan is preparing to visit La Youn, capital of the Western Sahara, in a gesture to restore Morocco's claim to the former Spanish colony, informed Moroccan sources said Saturday.

The visit, his first to the disputed territory since 1979, is set for March 3, the "Day of the Throne", commemorating the 24th anniversary of his accession, the sources said.

Moroccan forces, who have been fighting independence-seeking Polisario guerrillas in the territory for almost 10 years, have just completed a new defence line along the Algerian border about 450 kilometres east of La Youn, which is on the coast.

Journalists say an increase in libel suits will chill reporting. "It has to hurt," says Katherine Winton Evans, editor of the Washington Journalism Review. She notes that whenever there are highly publicised lawsuits resulting in losses to the media, other cases are bound to increase. The high cost begins to make news organisations more cautious.

And even when losses are over-returned in appeals — which happens in the majority of cases, according to the New York-based Libel Defence Research Centre (LDRC) — the public tends to forget the reversal and remember the large headlines of the initial loss, Ms. Evans says. "The press is not very popular now."

Mr. Sharon, 56, now Israel's minister of industry and commerce, claims he was libelled by Time's story on the 1982 massacre of Palestinians at two Beirut refugee camps.

The case centres on the 113-word paragraph, which said Mr. Sharon discussed the need for revenge with Falange leaders before their forces entered the Palestinian camps at Sabra and Shatila.

As a federal jury in New York deliberates on the Sharon case, news-media observers have mixed feelings about the libel trial.

Some, in fact, say they do not want Mr. Sharon to prevail. Jurors decided Wednesday that Time defamed Sharon. No decisions on the issues of falsity and malice had been made as of this writing. If the jury finds for Sharon on all three issues, the trial will reconvene to consider the awarding of damages.

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Sudan spares lives of 4 sentenced to death

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Four men sentenced to death for opposing Sharia (Islamic) Law in Sudan have repented and will not hang, the Sudanese News Agency SUNA reported Saturday.

The four were followers of banned Republican Brothers Party leader Mahmoud Mohammad Taha, who was publicly hanged Friday for heresy and for opposing Sharia, introduced by President Jaafar Numeiri in 1983.

All five men were sentenced to death by a criminal court last week.

An appeals court gave the men three months to repent but Mr. Numeiri, who ratified the sentences, curtailed the period to three days.

SUNA did not say if the death sentences would be commuted to prison terms or if the four men would be pardoned.

Mr. Taha, who formed his party in the 1940s, established an individualistic interpretation of the Koran, Islam's holy book, an interpretation regarded as heretical by many Muslims.

The hanging of Mr. Taha Friday drew a strong condemnation from the United States, which characterised the action as a "clear violation of human rights."

"The U.S. government expressed its serious concern several times at high levels of the Sudanese government concerning the trial and severe sentencing of Mr. Taha and his followers," the statement said.

It added that the United States "deplores the execution of Mr. Taha and the similar sentencing of his followers, who have never been charged with crimes of violence, but have been condemned for political and religious activities."

"We consider the Sudanese government's action as a clear violation of human rights inconsistent with the shared values of the international community," the statement said.

Deputies ask Navon to ban Eban's TV series

TEL AVIV — Eleven members of Knesset — including a cabinet minister — recently appealed to Education and Culture Minister Yitzhak Navon not to permit the screening by Israel Television of Heritage: Civilisation of the Jews, a TV series prepared by Mr. Navon's alignment comrade, Mr. Abba Eban.

Under the law, Mr. Navon, as Culture Minister, is responsible for the Broadcasting Authority. The 11 Knesset opponents of Mr. Eban's series, already shown in the U.S. by Public Service Broadcasting, are Avner Shai and David Danino of the National Religious Party; Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz; Ya'acov Yosef and Rafael Pinhas of Shas; Eliezer Waldman of Tzohar; Avraham Verdiger and Haim Druckman of Meretz; and Deputy Social Affairs Minister Menachem Porush and Avraham Shapira of Agudat Yisrael.

In a letter to Mr. Navon, the group cites of joint statement by five Orthodox Jewish organisations in the U.S. who said they received the series "with deep dismay and concern because of its fundamental error in orientation... and its commission of intolerable offence against authentic Jewish belief."

In their letter, the opponents attack Heritage, because it portrays the Torah as a "man-authored work incorporating myth and legend. Judaism as a slowly evolving faith and our God-given Halacha as a changeable system of law."

The five bodies are Agudat Yisrael of America, Religious Zionists of America, National Council of Young Israel, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and the Rabbinical Council of America — The Jerusalem Post

Syria attacks Arafat call for U.N. protection

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's semi-official newspaper Al-Thawra Saturday attacked Yasser Arafat's call for U.N. forces to protect Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, saying it gave the Israeli occupation a certificate of good behaviour.

Mr. Arafat's call suggested that Lebanon, not Israel, was the real threat to the refugees, the paper said.

"When Yasser Arafat asks the U.N. to protect the Palestinian refugee camps in South Lebanon in case of an Israeli pullout, he presents a certificate of good behaviour to the Israeli invaders," Al-Thawra said.

A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) letter to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar last Wednesday said Mr. Arafat believed U.N. troops in Lebanon should fill the gap when Israel pulls out its estimated 10,000 troops.

In September 1982, three months after Israel's invasion, Falangist forces massacred hundreds of Palestinians in the Beirut refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila.

Reagan, Fahd to discuss Middle East on Feb. 11

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will meet in Washington on Feb. 11 to discuss the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war and other issues, the White House has announced.

Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes said King Fahd's visit to the White House was one of a series of post-election meetings the president was holding with world leaders.

Mr. Reagan is due to hold talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on March 12.

Mr. Speakes described Saudi Arabia as "an important friend in the Middle East" and said the president would seek King Fahd's views on a wide range of regional and bilateral issues.

Mr. Reagan and King Fahd previously met in October, 1981, when King Fahd was Crown Prince.

Nepal opposes continued settlements in West Bank

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — The government of Nepal is opposed to Israel's continued settlement programme in the West Bank and the Gaza, according to a review of development in Nepal's foreign affairs between 1973-1983.

The official publication of the Nepalese Foreign Ministry says Katmandu considers "illegal and null and void" the Israeli decision to "annex" Western Jerusalem and declare the whole of Jerusalem as the "eternal" capital of Israel and also its decision to apply its laws to the Syrian Golan Heights "a de facto annexation of the occupied territory."

Nepal is the only country in South Asia where a residential Israeli embassy exists.

And, "cordiality and frankness" mark relations with Tel Aviv, the review says, noting the Israeli aid in providing training facilities in Nepal in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry and health care.

But, surprisingly, the review omits reference to the Israeli assistance under which Nepalese army has been able to have its paramilitary wing.

"As a friend of Israel, Nepal was deeply disturbed by its invasion of Lebanon in 1982," the review says observing that the "massive invasion" of a neighbouring state "led to human tragedy of great proportion."

Nepal supports the right of all states in the Middle East, including Israel, to live in peace within their secure and recognised borders.

Kuwait urges Gulf peace

[Continued from page 1] In the "successful outcome of the dangers raised by Israel."

"We hope that the continued Israeli aggression will provide an incentive for reunification of Palestinian ranks inside the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) within a framework of safeguarding the independence of Palestinian decision and democracy," he said.

The PLO has been beset by a split within its ranks because of Syrian-backed elements opposed to the leadership of Yasser Arafat.

Sheikh Sa'ad praised the cooperation between the executive and legislative branches of the government which he said was instrumental in the "successful outcome of the dangers raised by Israel."

New parliamentary elections are scheduled here for Feb. 20 and 91 candidates have announced their nominations.

Arafat appeals to Iran

Mr. Arafat also urged Iran Saturday to accept peace efforts and end the war "to spare the shedding of Muslim blood."

The PLO leader was in Sana'a, North Yemen, for an inspection visit to Palestinian units in the country at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, and for Arab unity talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Sharon claims victory in partial verdict

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Ariel Sharon says he has gained "a very great moral victory" in winning the second round of his \$50-million libel suit against Time magazine.

His lawyer, Milton Gould, declared that the former Israeli defence minister had been exonerated of charges that he instigated the massacre of Palestinians in 1982.

The six-member jury ruled Friday that a Time cover story about the massacre was false — the second test of libel under U.S. law.

The jury said Mr. Sharon had "proved by clear and convincing evidence the falsity of the facts" in a 113-word paragraph that is central to the case.

The jurors will turn to the third and final test of libel under U.S. law — whether Time published the story knowing it was false or with a reckless disregard for the truth.

Deliberations could last through the weekend.

Mr. Sharon won the first round on Wednesday when the jury ruled he had been defamed by Time.

Friday's ruling apparently left Time executives shaken. Standing on the courthouse steps, Ray Cave, the magazine's managing editor, began reading a prepared statement that began: "Time is gratified."

Realising he was reading the wrong statement, he turned to an aide and said: "Give me the right one."

Standing on the same steps, the barrel-chested Sharon declared: "I would call it a very great moral victory. It showed very clearly that we spoke the truth and that Time magazine lied."

"They lied. They libelled. It was just a blood libel against me, the state of Israel and the Jewish people."

Mr. Sharon, 56, now Israel's minister of industry and commerce, claims he was libelled by Time's story on the 1982 massacre of Palestinians at two Beirut refugee camps.

The case centres on the 113-word paragraph, which said Mr. Sharon discussed the need for revenge with Falange leaders before their forces entered the Palestinian camps at Sabra and Shatila.

As a federal jury in New York deliberates on the Sharon case, news-media observers have mixed feelings about the libel trial.

Some, in fact, say they do not want Mr. Sharon to prevail. Jurors decided Wednesday that Time defamed Sharon. No decisions on the issues of falsity and malice had been made as of this writing. If the jury finds for Sharon on all three issues, the trial will reconvene to consider the awarding of damages.

Journalists say an increase in libel suits will chill reporting. "It has to hurt," says Katherine Winton Evans, editor of the Washington Journalism Review. She notes that whenever there are highly publicised lawsuits resulting in losses to the media, other cases are bound to increase. The high cost begins to make news organisations more cautious.

And even when losses are over-returned in appeals — which happens in the majority of cases, according to the New York-based Libel Defence Research Centre (LDRC) — the public tends to forget the reversal and remember the large headlines of the initial loss, Ms. Evans says. "The press is not very popular now."

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Iranian prime minister to visit Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi, who arrives in Ankara Sunday, will be his country's most senior official to visit Turkey since the 1979 revolution in Tehran.

Economic issues, dominated by a complaint by Turkey about a slump in its exports to Iran, are expected to be a major theme of the talks, Turkish officials said.

They said political issues will include border security, a euphemism for efforts by Turkey to contain a rebellion by Kurdish guerrillas who are alleged to have bases in Iran.

Iran last year rebuffed a bid by Turkey for joint operations in the border area but later cooled Ankara's anger by stating it would not allow actions to be directed against Turkey from its soil.

The two sides are also expected to discuss the Iran-Iraq war and other regional issues. Turkey carefully balances its ties between the two sides, both of which are its neighbours.

Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan visited Turkey last August and signed an agreement for a second oil pipeline between the two countries to take Iraqi oil to Turkey's Mediterranean coast.

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Home news

Department to conduct tests on imported gold

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Director of the Metrology and Standardisation Directorate (MSD) Salah Aldeen Taha said Saturday that his department will launch a thorough campaign to test imported gold in order to check its specification and to make sure that it meets with Jordanian specifications.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Taha said that the MSD would also be keen to conduct tests on Jordanian gold production. He added that the MSD has recently embarked on testing and analysing samples of gold and gold ingots which are locally manufactured and imported. These tests, Mr. Taha explained, aim to make sure that these products meet with the Jordanian standard specifications for gold.

He said that results showed that Jordanian gold products do meet with Jordanian specifications except for two samples in which the carat scale was 0.002 units below standard. Nevertheless, some

samples indicated 0.004 unit above the legal limit, he said. While some samples of foreign gold crafts were found to be under the legal limit, Mr. Taha added.

He said that the MSD held a special meeting this week for representatives from the goldsmiths and silversmiths union in order to study the results of the survey and to organise goldsmiths in Jordan to maintain the high quality of Jordanian products.

Several measures have been taken to achieve this goal including the removal of all gold crafts which scale 995 units from the local market starting from Feb. 9 after which new ingots 999.9 units will be sold. At this time all ingots will bear a Jordanian hallmark in English, Mr. Taha added.

The MSD will prohibit the importation of any gold crafts without permission from the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Mr. Taha pointed out that an expanded meeting for goldsmiths and silversmiths will be convened in Jordan on Feb. 13 to study the prospects for this industry and to secure its goals.

Ajlouni, WHO delegation tour northern health centres, clinics

IRBID (Petra) — A delegation from the World Health Organisation (WHO), currently on a visit to Jordan, Saturday toured health centres in Irbid and Mafraq districts accompanied by Health Minister Kamel Ajlouni. The delegation were briefed on the services offered to the public by health centres and Health Ministry clinics and paid tribute to the efforts of Jordanian doctors and nurses to improve the health services in the country.

During the tour, Dr. Ajlouni expressed his ministry's readiness to open new centres in cooperation with the local village councils and various public and private sectors in these districts. Dr. Ajlouni said that the Health Ministry last year opened 60 integrated health centres which offer services to more than 400,000 people in Jordan.

Opening new centres, he said, requires sound planning and the ministry will be ready to open centres in any region inhabited by at least 4,000 people.

The WHO delegation also met with several local health officials who expressed their satisfaction about the people's increased use of the health services in the region. The director of the health department in Mafraq, Dr. Suleiman Afash, said that health services have improved considerably during the past few years. He added that Mafraq hospital was expanded and more beds were provided to cater for the area's villages.

The director of the Mansourah centre said that the centre receives between 10 and 15 patients daily. The ministry will equip the centre with mobile medical units to cater for road accidents victims.

House to hold closed session

(Continued from page 1)

Following Mr. Nawaf's comment, Mr. Obaidat agreed that a lot remains to be developed and improved in the field of education and that there was no need for Mr. Nawaf's "to be bitter in his comment." Mr. Nawaf said "perhaps I was bitter in my comment but what I said were facts."

In response to another inquiry, Health Minister Kamel Ajlouni said there was a difference between a health centre for treatment and a medical centre for emergency cases which would have to be moved to the nearest hospital after emergency treatment. He was responding to a question on why the planning for health centres in certain areas of the Kingdom did not take into consideration distances between each centre and emergency centres.

Dr. Ajlouni said the Health Ministry has bought 30 ambulance cars and that they will arrive in May to be distributed in the Kingdom according to priorities. He said the vehicles were equipped with all what is needed for emergency treatment.

Answering an inquiry by Karak Deputy Nazih Ammarin on the Health Ministry's measures to control the bilharzia disease which struck 10 citizens so far, Dr. Ajlouni said the ministry was taking the issue very seriously in cooperation with the World Health Organisation and that it was not proven that the disease was carried by visitors from outside Jordan. He said six bilharzia cases have been cured and that four

others were "recovering" under medical treatment. The Minister of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdel Khafif Daoudieh, commenting on a question whether the Awaqaf Ministry was going to finance a privately established Sharia centre in Kalkilya in the occupied West Bank, said the ministry's budget does not allow it to fully finance such a centre as it already finances many schools in the Israeli-occupied territories. However, he said, the ministry continues to support the centre with what it could.

The House also heard the government's answer to inquiries on loans for teachers' housing in the occupied West Bank, a new agreement for oil transportation that the government has signed with the Tapline company and the situation of the agricultural sector in the Kingdom.

The House referred to the Legal Committee a suggestion signed by 31 deputies to amend a traffic law. The law stipulated issuing different licence plates for vehicles used by deputies.

The House also endorsed decisions by the Legal Committee on new university laws and proposed the dissolution of a provision law on the Jordan Medical Association. A decision to provide former as well as serving deputies and senators with diplomatic passports was endorsed by the House. The House also considers as deputies members of the National Consultative Council which was dissolved after the convening of parliament.

'Naqoura talks resume Tuesday'

(Continued from page 1)

withdrawal plan from South Lebanon and therefore we agree to attend the meetings in Naqoura on Tuesday because this is the day that we consider suitable to resume," he said.

The prime minister did not mention disagreements over where U.N. troops would be stationed in South Lebanon once Israeli withdrawals, a point of contention before Israel refused to reschedule further talks following the last meeting Jan. 7.

"On Tuesday, we will discuss the programme and the timetable for the withdrawals," Mr. Karami said, noting the Lebanese delegation will have "a positive stand regarding arrangements which should be undertaken in the best interest of Lebanon."

Both Lebanese and Israeli officials have expressed fears that factional violence could break out in the areas to be vacated by Israel if Lebanese army or U.N. troops do not establish security.

Lebanese officials — and the Syrian media — have suggested

Israel may try to foment such violence to keep Lebanon unstable. Mr. Karami did not say why Lebanon found Tuesday the best day to restart the talks. Mr. Urquhart reportedly suggested resuming Monday.

Before the session with Mr. Urquhart, Mr. Karami had met with U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew, and the prime minister said they had discussed incidents against embassies in Beirut and the situation of five kidnapped or missing Americans.

These issues "worry us and reflect on Lebanon's relations at the time when we are busy in a ferocious struggle to secure an Israeli withdrawal," he said.

The meetings at the presidential palace east of Beirut came after several mortar shells fell on the capital's mostly Christian eastern sector and a dynamite blast in mainly Muslim west Beirut.

A series of explosions have killed 18 people in the western sector in two weeks, and Saturday saw two cabinet ministers demanding that security officials put a stop to the violence or resign their posts.



Her Majesty Queen Noor chairs a meeting at the Ministry of Public Works Saturday to discuss means of promoting Islamic architectural designs and increasing public awareness about Islamic heritage (Petra photo)

Rawabdeh defends taxes on sign boards, outlines Amman Municipality plans

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh has defended the municipality's existing system to collect tax and revenues and promised citizens to upgrade public services and relief centres in the Kingdom.

In an interview with Jordan Television on Friday night, Mr. Rawabdeh outlined Amman Municipality's future projects, goals and ambitions and the obstacles facing the implementation of its projects.

During the interview, which was conducted by two prominent journalists and Mohammed Amin, news director at Jordan Television, Mr. Rawabdeh defended the extra fees the municipality levies on trade signs of stores and markets in Amman saying that the fees were "logical" when compared with the services the municipality is offering to the stores.

"We are not living in 1960 when we used to charge you for 500 fils for services," he said. "It is 1985 we are living in, and we need revenues to cover service costs and expenditures."

Mr. Rawabdeh also said municipal salaries have gone up five times and advertisement costs went up by 10 times since 1960. The municipality now charges JD 5 for every sign board which is under half-a-square-metre in size and JD 10 for those of one metre in size. For every additional metre over one metre the charges go up

by JD 10, according to Mahmoud Al Armouti, director of the Professional Licence Department at Amman Municipality.

For 11 sign boards the charges go up by 50 per cent, Mr. Armouti added.

Responding to a question why the municipality chose to levy these fees at this time, especially in the light of the recession affecting the region and the world at large, Mr. Rawabdeh said: "These fees should have been increased every five years. Municipalities outside Amman started levying the fees only at the beginning of 1980, and Amman Municipality started the practice only as of Jan. 1, 1985."

Discussing municipal sanitary facilities in Amman, Mr. Rawabdeh said that Amman Municipality has floated a tender to build 12 sanitary cubicles in Amman during summer and the existing nine facilities will be repaired.

He also said that the municipality will not permit the building of any new commercial building unless it has separate sanitary facilities for men and women.

Defending the municipal regulation stipulating that all buildings in Amman should be painted white outside, Mr. Rawabdeh said that construction reg-

ulations of 1979 had called for the measure but the municipality implemented the decision only in 1983 and gave a grace period of 12 months for all building owners to comply with the rule.

In reply to a question why the municipality has been taking over houses in Jabal Al Jofeh in return for relatively low compensation to the owners, the mayor said that the houses in question were situated "near erosion areas and almost on the verge of collapse any minute."

Defending the low compensation the municipality has been paying to the owners of the appropriated houses, the mayor said that the appropriation law of Jordan states that "the price of the land and building is estimated on basis of prices prevailing at the time when the decision to appropriate the building was taken and not at the time of evacuating it."

"The citizen has the right to seek legal help and approach the concerned courts in case of disputes," he added.

He also said the municipality has offered small low-cost houses at urban development projects to the owners of appropriated houses.

Commenting on alleged delays on the part of the municipality to issue occupancy certificates, the mayor said that the procedures do not take more than two weeks, during which municipal engineers will check the legal status of the building.

Architectural committee plans building awareness campaign

Noor encourages architects to follow Islamic designs

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday expressed her hope that Jordanian architects will design simple and inexpensive buildings and projects based on the Islamic style of building.

Queen Noor was speaking at a meeting she chaired at the Ministry of Public Works for the committee of modern building and architectural heritage. The Queen emphasised the importance of the general framework of the committee which aims to use modern Islamic architecture to complement Jordan's social and development needs.

Public Works Minister Rayef Nijem reviewed the objectives of the committee, its framework and decisions taken at previous meetings. The meeting also discussed means of applying the committee's decisions and coordination with other government and private sector institutes.

During the meeting the committee arrived at a number of decisions to try and achieve its objectives:

— To start a campaign in the local press, television and radio to try and promote awareness among people and architects on Islamic building heritage and modern architecture.

— Convening frequent discussion panels on television and radio with local and visiting architects and writing articles in newspapers on the subject.

— To award annual prizes for architects and owners whose projects conform with the general framework of the committee.

— The support of publications on the subject and the supply of such publications to public libraries.

— Improving architectural practices through on-job-training for new graduates by giving them practical experience in architectural offices for considerable periods of time.

— To improve and amend architectural curricula at universities and to expand the syllabus on Islamic architecture, its history and philosophy.

— The study of domestic architecture and its link to Islamic architecture and to study the style

of buildings in Jordan's archaeological sites.

— To advance students' understanding and appreciation of music, arts and literature and their relation to architecture.

— To coordinate with Arab, Islamic and other universities to develop an understanding of Islamic architecture, research and documentation in this field.

— To introduce subjects on renovation techniques for old buildings and the maintenance and restoration of old buildings and historical sites.

The committee also decided that large scale projects should be tendered for design and final designs should be approved by the committee.

For this purpose, the committee decided to form a three-architects-committee composed of a university professor, a representative of the Jordan Engineers Association and a representative from the private sector.

Following the meeting, Queen Noor toured the studies and research centre at the Ministry of Public Works and was shown plans and designs of different governmental projects.

Agriculture must be organised to avoid gluts, marketing problems, Bashir says

ZARQA (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Bashir has stressed the importance of organising agriculture to avoid the occurrence of marketing gluts saying that his ministry has started conducting a detailed study on agricultural patterns in the highlands in cooperation with the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development.

Speaking during a meeting with Zarqa district farmers, held Saturday at Zarqa Chamber of Commerce, the minister added that after assessing the results of study, farmers will be involved in formulating proposed agricultural

patterns. A number of countries will be contacted to benefit from their experiences in this field as the adoption of agricultural patterns requires solving some problems such as the dissipation of land possessions and unfixed prices of insecticides and fertilisers, the minister said.

Regarding fixing prices of production requirements, he said that working committees have been set up in the ministry for this purpose. Mr. Bashir also said that his ministry is concerned with improving the agricultural extension process and he added that an office for agricultural information has recently been established at the ministry to convey information to farmers through the media. The minister also pointed out that the government has allocated JD 7 million for promoting agricultural development.

Also speaking at the meeting was Minister of Agriculture Under-Secretary Saleem Al Lawzi who pointed out that the area of planted land in Zarqa district is estimated at 55,000 dunums which, he said, is half the cultivated irrigated area in the highland regions. Dr. Lawzi said that there are 252 wells including 116 are artesian wells in the district.

Progressive centre takes initiative to adjust medical curricula to national needs

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As early as 1970, during the second World Health Organisation (WHO) regional conference on medical education, a change of concept in medical education called for a complete revision of objectives, curricula and methodology. "This change of concept," Dr. El-Borolossy, vice president and former dean of the Faculty of Medical Science at the University of Jordan recalled, "included the role of the physician as a leader of a health team caring for the health of the community as a whole, with more emphasis on the preventive aspects of disease, environmental health, mother and child care and other elements of what became known as primary health care. This led to a revision of curricula in medical schools to achieve these objectives. At the same time, it became clear that medical education is a life-long process so that the student of medicine should learn, during his undergraduate years, how to pursue a process of self-learning all through his active life."

Regarding the methods of teaching, Dr. El-Borolossy added, "it became clear to the interested medical educators that education is an art in itself so that teachers of medicine should be trained in educational sciences, especially those who are expected to be engaged in the planning and evaluation of the medical curriculum."

Under these premises, WHO started in 1970 a global teacher training programme, "particularly responsive to the health needs and health care issues of the populations". This programme is part of a larger WHO programme known as "health for all by the year 2000" and was designed in three phases. For the first phase, the Centre for Educational Development of the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, was designated as the international Teacher Training Centre where key personnel were to be trained. It acted in this capacity until 1974, organising also one-year courses and workshops for the future directors and staff of regional teacher training centres, administrators of large health training institutions and senior teachers.

The second phase, which began in 1972, saw the establishment of eight regional teacher training centres. Each centre was to place special emphasis on teacher training in issues and problems pertinent to the WHO region it served, so that a "critical mass" of trained educators could be produced who could bring about educational reforms consistent with its region's health needs.

The third phase, the present phase of this programme, was designed to transfer the responsibility from the regional centres to national institutions by 1980. The regional centres for this region operated from 1974 to 1980 at the Shiraz Medical School, Department of Medical Education at the Shiraz University in Iran, where it ran two-week regional workshops on educational planning in health professional education each year and one workshop for which up to 15 short term fellowships were awarded. On the average, more than 100 individuals were trained there annually.

From Jordan, Dr. Kandil Shaker Shubair, now director of the Centre for Educational Development at the University of Jordan (CEDUJ) and Dr. Kamel Ajlouni, now minister of health, visited the centre and derived inspiration for future work in their country. It was Dr. Ajlouni, in fact, who started the CEDUJ and, though now he has passed on the directorship of the centre to Dr. Shaker Shubair, he still remains very much concerned and involved with its developments and projects. Dr. Ajlouni has also applied many of the WHO goals for community-oriented health in his present position, keeping as a priority the concern for an equally-distributed primary health care.

Middle East schools

While phase I of the WHO programme had very few examples of curricular innovations or community-oriented schools to draw on, there are now 22 such schools in the world. And, since 1979, two innovative programmes have been instituted in the Middle East at the Faculty of Medicine at Gezira University in Sudan and at the Faculty of Medicine at Suez Canal University in Egypt. Two more similar programmes are in the planning stage, at the Gulf Medical School in Bahrain and at the Aden Faculty of Medicine in Democratic Yemen.

Twelve of these schools around the world were opened just in the last four years, and Miss Nasrin Matalery, instructional designer at CEDUJ and WHO consultant, attributes such a rapid growth partially to an increased awareness and cooperation between WHO and governments of the given regions. "It is the governments who are getting more aware of health care needs of their populations and are generating changes", she

says. "This is how it should be. The governments and the public should be involved directly in finding their own health problems and searching out solutions."

CEDUJ goals include team approach, primary health care, and integration of preventive and curative aspects of health care, and "a medicine which is coming down to people who need it but find it unavailable". Dr. Shaker Shubair explains.

Following the basic WHO guidelines and working closely with other centres outside Jordan, as well as various health education institutions, international organisations, the University of Jordan, and the Ministries of Health, Education and the Royal Medical Services, CEDUJ offers a variety of educational programmes relating to the different needs and preferences of its users in the areas of health profession education and continuing education.

CEDUJ activities include services and training for the teachers and trainers of health professions in Jordan. The services are designed to facilitate the training and provide health professions teachers and learners with the necessary tools. They include a media advisory service available at all times to help academic staff design, develop and improve on printed and audio-visual materials to support the achievement of established learning objectives.

The planning of a resource centre of overhead transparencies, slides, films, videos and reference books and publications is under completion and is now the priority of the centre's services department. "We plan to have this resource centre fully functioning by the end of 1985", says Miss Matalery, "and we will then focus on the two adjacent facilities which will be designed as a physical skills laboratory and for audio-visual use, with individual stations for teachers and students."

Future projects

Future projects also include the installation and use of a computer which will greatly help in collecting information for health professions education research projects. "We proceed gradually, also for financial reasons", Miss Matalery says. CEDUJ is supported by both WHO and the University of Jordan and Miss Matalery says they want to prove themselves before investing in large quantities of money. "But", she said, "I think we have proven ourselves so far."

Training activities are designed to refresh and improve the knowledge and skills of practising physicians and allied pro-

fessionals, as well as to train future medical teachers who will then be able to carry on and expand the programme all over the country. To achieve these goals, CEDUJ offers short term workshops (two or three days, on topics oriented on national and local levels), long-term workshops (for one or two weeks on medical education and continuing education on the national and regional levels), and long-term fellowships (one to three months on varying topics according to the specific needs of the students).

In cooperation with the Faculty of Education at the University of Jordan and Centre for Educational Development at the University of Illinois, Chicago, CEDUJ is also working on providing a Masters degree in health education, hopefully starting in September 1985. More staff and a complete educational resource centre will be needed before this project can take place.

The actual training include curriculum planning, instructional design and students evaluation. Workshops and seminars are held regularly (one workshop per month is planned for 1984-85) and surveys are being conducted to assess the present needs of medical students competencies versus the country's health-care needs.

"Assessment is the basic need at the moment", says Miss Matalery. "We are preparing questionnaires, interviewing members of the medical faculty, residents and students, asking what they think about the current medical education programme. We try to interview personnel, and students at all levels to get a conglomerate view."

More professional staff is another basic need of CEDUJ at the present. Right now, Dr. Shaker Shubair and Miss Matalery are carrying most of the organizational load and being "jacks of all trades" in order to fill in where necessary. "We need educationists, nurses, clinicians, experts in basic science, pharmacists", Miss Matalery says. "We are in the process of hiring them, but we need to be choosy. Their approach and philosophy will have to be as ours. They will have to deal with top people, so they will need to be convinced of what they are teaching. Finally, they will need to be flexible, ready to do anything, having an overall approach although focusing on one area."

"At present", Miss Matalery continues, "our team works very well together. We have built it over the past six months. It takes time to evaluate people and do the choosing, but, although we are under tremendous pressure, we feel we must choose carefully. We hope to hire the new staff within the next couple of months, depending also on the budget. All the people we are considering are already highly qualified professionals, because we just can't train anyone from scratch."

Research is another need and priority of CEDUJ at the present. "Research in education must be relevant to the country's problems", Miss Matalery says. "It is also important to strengthen the collaboration with other centres, professionals and all organisations involved in health personnel training. After a few workshops where everyone agreed on certain basic points, we noticed we had

not built in a followup system. Everyone just went back to their work waiting for something to happen", Miss Matalery explains. "Most people didn't put into action what had been defined at the workshops for lack of support. When we realised this problem, we planned follow-up programmes. We asked participants to present individual constructive plans for the immediate future, put deadlines on them and checked on the results. Their feedback was also important for our research work. From the evaluation of the workshops we can make changes."

Miss Matalery says very little research has been done in the region so far on health professions education, but the computer will undoubtedly be an enormous asset in this field.

Cooperation with other centres is also gaining ground. CEDUJ has started a collaboration with the University of Chicago, Illinois, and they are about to go on with agreements of interchanges and fellowships. Such a cooperation will then expand to other centres and is extremely important for keeping CEDUJ informed on current international news and changes in medical, nursing and allied health education.

The first issue under CEDUJ management of a WHO periodical journal for teachers and trainers of health personnel, "The Learner", is expected to be published next March. It will provide the Eastern Mediterranean region of WHO with continuous health professional education and a source of contact between health institutions the world over.



Back to the drawing board in assessing medical curricula and training for doctors. (J.T. file photo)

Jordan Times

Responsible Editor:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Senior Editor:
RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 666320, 666265 **Telex:** 214971 ALJAI JO

Telegram: JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan.

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Ask the horse riders

IT IS difficult to understand the value of news from Brussels saying that Arab ambassadors to Belgium have recommended to the Arab League a ban on Trans European Airways (TEA), the airline which was involved in the airlift of Ethiopian Jews from Africa to Israel.

Not that we are against the boycott of the airline, but we fail to understand the call because we doubt the effectiveness of such a measure, bearing in mind the failures of the Arab boycott against Israel.

In fact, we have so many questions on the whole issue. First and foremost is how the 21 Arab states, including Sudan, which reportedly aided the airlift, only learned about the operation from Israeli leaked news? The operation did take place before the world's eyes and involved thousands of people from all over the world; and yet we failed to know about it in time. What do our distinguished ambassadors in Belgium, Europe and the U.S. say about that? What have our governments recommended in the case of Sudan? And what about other European airlines that still lift Jews from different parts of the West and East and transfer them to Israel? Don't most of the settlers of the West Bank come from Europe and the U.S.?

One can ask even more difficult questions of our Arab brethren, but we may as well ask ourselves about the use of the whole exercise.

At the end, one wonders if TEA operates to or from any Arab country to be actually affected by the ban decision which our ambassadors have so highly recommended. Ask that to our distinguished envoys first.

There is an old Arabic saying that tells us "If you cannot jump on the horse, jump on the saddle". It seems none of our ambassadors in Brussels is a horse rider.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Aid to serve aggression

THE NEW YORK Times newspaper in its latest edition said that the United States will grant Israel \$1.6 billion in aid in 1986, an increase of 400 million over the 1985 figure. Of course, this aid will finance more acts of aggression on the Arabs and will be mainly used for purchasing more weapons to cause destruction to their lands. The United States realises too well this fact and also realises that what it calls aid to Israel is more than the enemy needs for sustenance.

It is impossible for us to get accurate figures of U.S. aid in military, financial or economic forms to Israel, but all we know is that the U.S. is helping to build a military fortress whose aims and objectives are to carry out aggression and expansion at the expense of Arab states. The aid which Washington gives to Israel is far more bigger than the amount it requires for settling newcomers and most of the funds are being used for arms and for expansion.

The U.S. has preferred to give this "aid" to the Zionist state to help it carry out its aggressive objectives rather than continue giving any assistance to UNESCO, which helps "Third World" nations to get rid of their poverty and to raise their cultural and social standards. It is rather puzzling for us to see Washington announcing a \$12.5 million in aid to help Israel resettle the Ethiopian Jews in occupied Palestine and at the same time protest in Israel against settling these Jews in the West Bank.

Washington realises that whatever funds it sends to Israel are all used for settlement and war whether this was in the West Bank or in the territories occupied since 1948.

Al Dustour: Positive U.S. development?

WASHINGTON'S ANNOUNCEMENT that it will hold periodic meetings with Moscow over the Middle East question bear great significance despite a statement by Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's national security advisor, that the move does not reflect any change in the American traditional position.

Despite justifications by U.S. officials about the need to hold consultations and assurances they gave to Israel that Washington's stand remained unchanged, we consider this move a great political development, and a new crack in the great wall. It reflects the first move by Washington for accepting Moscow's views vis-a-vis the Middle East issue.

But what pains us at the moment is to see the Arab countries deeply divided and involved in their own disputes which do not help other nations and the superpowers to solve their main issue: Palestine. Indeed, the superpowers might conclude a deal over the issue, which might not be in the interest of the Arab Nation, if Arab governments continue with their differences and their disputes.

The Arabs ought to follow up world developments that have an impact on their issues and most importantly should end their differences and reach a common policy and common plan to present to the world.

Sawt Al Shaab: Common Arab position needed

THESE DAYS witness much talk between East and West about important world issues which of course include the Middle East. Against such a development, the world watches the Arab countries continuing their disputes and differences which aim at achieving nothing.

The Western part of the Arab World is plagued by the Sahara war, which has been raging for more than 10 years, and the eastern part is still divided and continues to bear the effects of the 1967 aggression. At the peak of their differences and at the most crucial moments in their history, the Israelis came to agreement and formed a national coalition government. But the Arabs, which have a common objective cannot stop squabbling and cannot find common ground for joint action. The Arabs cannot find a common formula to present to the world.

The Palestinians, the Jordanians, the Syrians, the Lebanese and the Egyptians have direct confrontation with a common enemy, but still they are at loggerheads and cannot agree on a joint action to confront the Israeli enemy. What then will be our position if we are asked to present the Arab Nation's views to the superpowers when these views are requested?

What the Arabs require urgently now is a summit meeting where Arab leaders can get together to discuss not only means for solving their problems but also a common strategy.

Drafted planning law suffers from setbacks

By Fahed Faneh

THE FIRST draft of the new planning law to be enacted to transfer authority from the previous National Planning Council to the new Planning Ministry was printed by Al-Dustour newspaper last Wednesday.

In comparison with the present law, issued in 1971, the draft is no doubt a step forward. However, I have some reservations and comments to offer.

Planning of economic and social development is not a function confined to the Ministry of Planning alone. The ministry is very much inter-related to other financial, monetary, trading, and social institutions both public and private. All these institutions should have participated in coining the new law.

It is customary that whenever an establishment is writing its own charter, the tendency would be towards too much power and authority vested in that establishment to the

extent that may burden it with much more responsibility than it can handle properly.

The proposed law gave the Ministry of Planning certain responsibilities which should be carried out by other more equipped institutions. It is understood to expect the ministry to draw long-term and medium-term plans, but this should not necessarily mean that the ministry will also be charged with the preparation of the annual budget, otherwise the Ministry of Finance will be reduced to an accounting office or a book-keeping unit.

The Ministry of Planning is supposed to be the think-tank of the administration, a staff function rather than a line function, to use business organisation language. As such, it should not be bogged down in day-to-day decision-making and implementation processes.

Contrary to the provisions of the proposed law, financing and borrowing should be left to the Ministry of Finance, where

they belong, except for project-financing. The Ministry of Planning cannot decide on the society's manpower needs of skills and professions, and without involving the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour, and Social Development, the Higher Council of Education, the universities and professional unions. The preparation of credit agreements should be made to actively involve the Central Bank. The preparation of economic cooperation with other countries must be left entirely to the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The participation of governmental funds and the Social Security Corporation should be made at the discretion of the boards of directors of these institutions who are charged with the management and proper investment of their resources.

The draft law prohibits the implementation of any development project by any other ministry or public corporation if the project is not listed in the

five-year development plan except with the prior approval of the council of ministers based on a recommendation from the Minister of planning and not the related minister.

Obviously, this provision gives the planning minister a veto on all such projects. This is a huge responsibility the minister would be better off without. It will result in weakening the ability of government institutions to act within their fields and respond to changing circumstances and needs not envisaged by the five-year plan.

I do trust the judgement of Dr. Abdullah Nsour, but there is no guarantee that another rigid minister of planning may not freeze the initiative of the public sector by blindly abiding to a planning document written several years ago and under different circumstances.

The minister of planning will also be given the right to approve or disapprove of using the services of any foreign expert under technical assistance pro-

grammes. This is too hard a job, because the minister is not in a position to judge the efficiency of the expert nor the real need of the development concerned and the justification of recruiting a foreign expert. No minister of planning will accept the responsibility for the adequacy of all foreign experts operating in all fields of expertise in all government ministries and institutions.

The draft law prevents the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank and any other ministry or public corporation from contacting any banking or financing institutions whether in Jordan or abroad except through the Ministry of Planning. If such a provision is put into effect, it will cut off all relations of ministries, government departments and public corporations with Jordanian and foreign banks and financial institutions.

The law also creates a special fund to receive all proceeds of loans or funds appropriated by

the budget to the ministry or the external funds or re-finances of interest on re-advanced loans etc.

I believe that the treasury should be the proper place for all public funds. This provision was actually included in the old law but never observed because it was obviously unfeasible and possibly harmful. When the state budget appropriates JD 50 million for the Ministry of Planning at any given year, this does not imply that the government actually has these funds in cash or at the bank.

Finally, the draft law of planning did not describe the Jordanian economic system, did not protect the initiative of the private sector and did not dwell on the planning process in itself such as methods, aims, means, control, follow-up, coordination etc. It concentrated on grabbing too much power some of which will be at the expense of other specialised institutions.

Expounded differences weaken Iranian opposition in exile

Jean Gueyras

IN THE view of Princess Azadeh, daughter of the Shah's twin sister Princess Ashraf, the two main Paris-based groups that have mobilised opposition to Khomeini (which are led respectively by two former Iranian prime ministers, Shapur Bakhtiar and Ali Amini) are engaged in a pointless squabble, because neither faction is worthy to represent the Pahlavi dynasty. Her most scathing criticism is directed at Mr. Bakhtiar, whom she has apparently never forgiven for his "treachery" in January 1979.

The princess admits there used to be corruption in Iran, but claims that it had nothing to do with her uncle, the "corrupt", she says, have taken their bad habits with them into exile. They now call themselves monarchists purely because of the continuing popularity of the Pahlavi dynasty in Iran.

She is in favour of a restoration of the monarchy, but only after the royal family has been purged of its "corrupt and treacherous" elements. The princess has shocked some of those in her circle by calling for the setting up of a left-wing government of national unity in Tehran from which neither Communists nor Mujahidin would be excluded.

Princess Azadeh's views, no more than tolerated by her mother, are partly shared by the members of a new monarchist organisation, the LOIH, which consists of former officers of the imperial army who have taken refuge abroad, and who for the time being wish to remain anonymous. According to the LOIH's programme, the question of the monarchy would be decided upon by a freely elected parliament once it had received the backing of the Shi'ite hierarchy. The programme also provides for the banning of alcohol, casinos, night clubs, and other manifestations of Western "corruption" abhorred by the current regime in Tehran.

The LOIH describes itself as not only monarchist but revolutionary, and dissociates itself from "certain scoundrels" who surrounded Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in his final years, men of shame and dishonour whose excesses helped to bring about unbridled subversion.

Accusations of corruption are common in monarchist circles in Paris. Mr. Bakhtiar himself is always ready to fire a salvo or two at Princess Ashraf, who, he claims, "wishes to set up a centre of absolute and corrupt power headed by an army colonel, in order to continue to wield her evil influence."

It was precisely to avoid getting involved in such mud-slinging that the Shah's son, Prince Reza Cyrus, decided not to make Paris his base and to cut himself off from all members of the royal family except his mother, brothers and sisters. He did so on the advice of his entourage, which has been criticised by a number of former officers who would themselves have liked to have roped him into a "politico-military bureau" and thus control his actions.

Matters are made more complicated by the fact that Mr. Amini and Mr. Bakhtiar cannot agree on what title to give the crown prince, who in November 1980 proclaimed himself emperor and said he was ready "to assume his responsibilities as king." Mr. Bakhtiar, however, is of the opinion that until Prince Reza Cyrus has taken the oath of allegiance before parliament, as provided for by the 1906 constitution, he must remain "crown prince and rightful pretender to the throne of the Pahlavis."

Another bone of contention

within the monarchist camp concerns the attitude that should be adopted towards Iraq in its war against Iran. On this issue, Mr. Bakhtiar, whose close ties with Baghdad are public knowledge, is completely isolated. Mr. Amini's right-hand man, Shahine Falemi, admits that his arch-enemy Khomeini has at least had the merit of defending "Iran's (territorial) integrity and sovereignty" against the Iraqi aggressor, and adds that given the choice between the toppling of Khomeini by the Iraqis and the unity of Iran he would choose the latter because in any case Khomeini's rule cannot last indefinitely.

Princess Ashraf also opposes any form of collaboration with Iraq, "the enemy of the Iranian people", even if such a course might "facilitate Khomeini's downfall and the return of the monarchy". She regrets that "many opposition members are getting mixed up with the Iraqis and Arabs".

Princess Ashraf also believes that the Iranians will never forgive Iraq for starting hostilities in 1980, and that all his compatriots "regard the war as their own". She has now moderated his earlier ultra-monarchist stance, while admitting, like Mr. Bakhtiar and Mr. Amini, that Khomeini's excesses have caused some sections of the population to hanker after the monarchy, he does not believe that a return of the Pahlavi dynasty would be the right solution in the present circumstances.

"For that to be so," he says, "the crown prince would have to be capable of mobilising his supporters — which is unfortunately not the case. Prince Reza could become an excellent monarch of the Swedish type. But he is not someone who could lead his people to take power in Tehran."

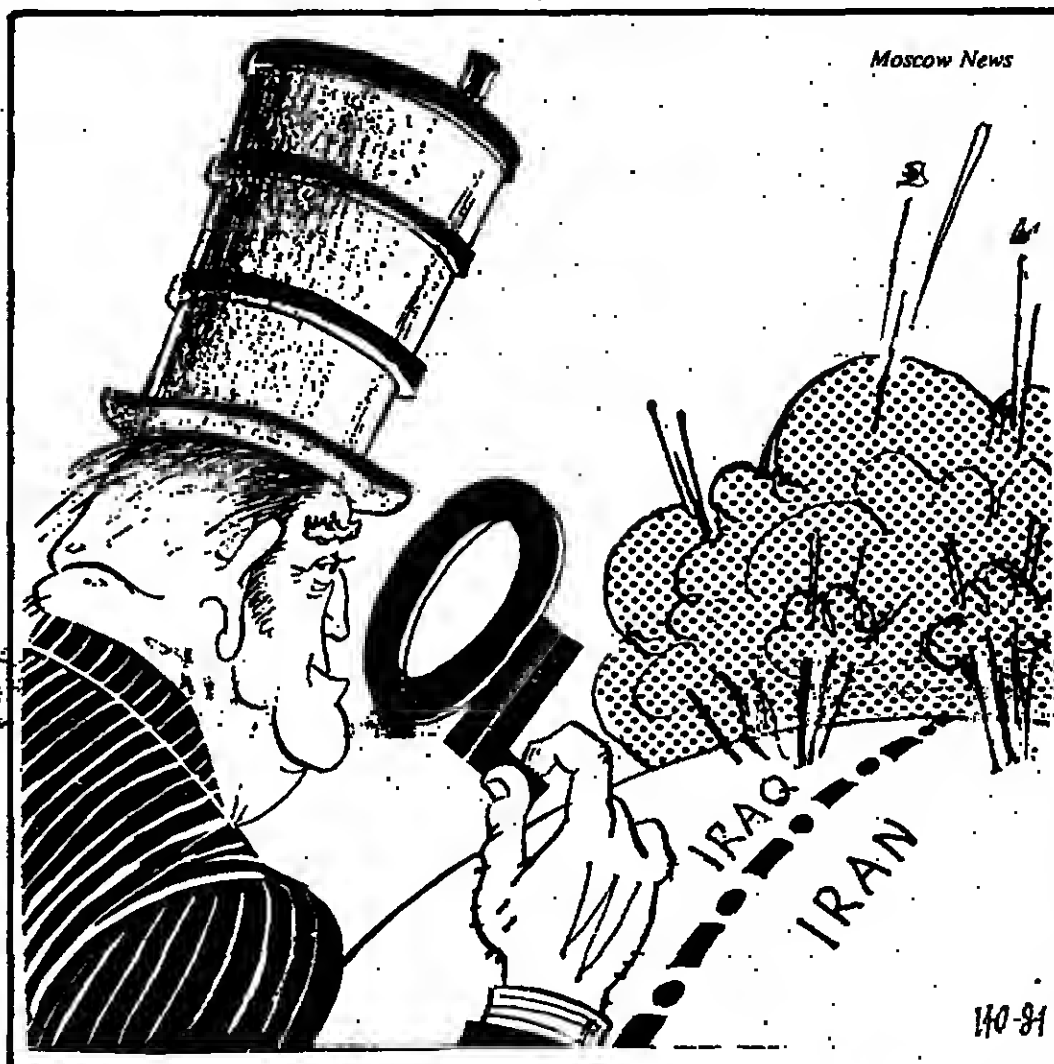
Another once fervent supporter of the Pahlavis, the journalist and writer Freidoune Sahebjan, doubts that they will ever return to the throne. He points out that over the last 25 centuries more than 25 different dynasties have succeeded each other in Iran — and in no instance has one of them managed to return to the throne after being deposed.

"One thing is quite certain," he says. "Those who ran the country during the last 30 years of imperial rule have virtually no chance of getting back in. They have said and written too much; they have made too many promises; they have lied too often. And thousands of their supporters have been butchered on their behalf."

The non-monarchist opposition in exile is equally divided. In March 1984, when former President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr and Massoud Rajavi, leader of the People's Mujahidin, the main group in the National Resistance Council (NRC), decided to terminate an alliance that had lasted two years and nine months, they agreed that they would try to avoid "sterile polemic as to safeguard the future."

Their "menage" at Auvers-sur-Oise near Paris (Rajavi is Bani-Sadr's son-in-law) had become increasingly fraught ever since Rajavi had met the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in January 1983. Their common pledge not to get involved in polemic is now no more than a distant memory.

Mr. Bani-Sadr explains his own refusal to meet Tariq Aziz as fol-



"I have my own view of this" says Mr. Rajavi. "I couldn't shake hands with an aggressor without casting a slur on my dignity as former president of the republic and commander-in-chief of an army that is still fighting the Iraqis. But I was not opposed to Massoud's meeting Tariq Aziz. I simply told him: 'Don't forget that you have to speak to him as a representative of an aggressed people.' I was deeply shocked by the joint communiqué published after their talks. There was no mention of aggressor or aggressed. Worse still, it looked very much as though their talks had been conducted in an atmosphere of friendship. At that point, I could only assume they'd end up as allies."

Mr. Rajavi justifies his policy of collaborating with Iraq by "the need to prepare the way towards peace and the liberation of our people." He remains unrepentant about his January 1983 meeting and says that it was Mr. Aziz who made concessions when he came to see him at Auvers-sur-Oise: "They need us more than we need them."

Mr. Rajavi admits, however, that the meeting may have ruffled a few feathers. But, as he points out, it is difficult to start calling for peace in a war that has taken such a heavy toll in human life: "Such an initiative can only be taken by someone who is doubly entitled to do so in that he has fought against both the Shah and Khomeini, and whose patriotism cannot be questioned." In Mr. Rajavi's view, all those who oppose the idea of collaborating with Iraq to end hostilities are "hypocrites who, under false patriotic pretences, simply want to keep fighting."

Mr. Rajavi took that argument to its logical conclusion when, in December 1983, he suggested that the NRC, of which he is president, should set up a base in Iraq, "on a piece of defensible territory" near the Iranian border, preferably opposite Kermanshah. He proposed that the NRC should set up a liberation army made up of mujahidin, Kurdish Peshmargas and Iranian prisoners recruited in Iraqi camps.

Mr. Bani-Sadr, who did not attend the meeting of the NRC (of which he is not a member) was

told by Mr. Rajavi of the suggestions he had just made. In his capacity as future president of the Republic (under the terms of the NRC's statutes), Mr. Bani-Sadr is, however, permitted to take part in proceedings if he deems necessary.

He did precisely that at the NRC's next meeting, in early January 1984, and launched into a swinging attack on Mr. Rajavi's plan, which he described as "suicidal" and "disastrous". "If it is put into action," he said, "it can only help to unite the Iranian people around Khomeini, who will then have an easy job of casting himself in the role of 'the defender of Iran's unity and integrity' and alienating the NRC from the Iranian people, who, whatever their attitude towards the regime, remain deeply nationalist."

"In other words," Mr. Bani-Sadr went on, "we are being asked, almost four years to late, to repeat the pathetic attempt made by Mr. Bakhtiar and Mr. Oveissi to form — unsuccessfully as it happened — an army in Iraq to win back Iran. All you will do is give the NRC to the Iraqis as a hostage, a 'pawn' that Saddam Hussein will be quite prepared to sacrifice when it suits him in the hope of achieving the peace he has been calling for so insistently."

The last straw which brought the already extremely tense relations between Mr. Bani-Sadr and Mr. Rajavi to breaking point was an article in the former president's weekly, Inqilab Islami, which violently attacked Iraq just as Mr. Rajavi was about to visit the country, in mid-March, at the invitation of the Baghdad government.

Mr. Rajavi was furious. He wrote a 14-page letter to Mr. Bani-Sadr announcing "the end of their collaboration". He also called an extraordinary meeting of the NRC, at which he presented his own resignation and that of the Mujahidin on the grounds that they could no longer accept article 7 of the NRC's statutes, which specified that Mr. Bani-Sadr would be appointed president of the future Islamic Democratic Republic for a period of six months. The offending article was

removed, and the break between Mr. Bani-Sadr and Mr. Rajavi fully consummated.

Despite their mutual promises not to get involved in polemic, Mr. Bani-Sadr and his son-in-law were soon washing their dirty linen in the Persian-language press published in Paris and within earshot of interested journalists.

According to Mr. Rajavi, Mr. Bani-Sadr had simply reverted to his pro-Khomeini origins: "We now regard him as forming part of the aftermath of the Tehran regime. We are divided on a fundamental issue: he believes in the existence, within the Islamic government, of a moderate tendency with which it is possible to enter into negotiations. That is a serious mistake — worse even, a betrayal. In fact what he is trying to do is save a regime that has its back to the wall. Criminals like the president of the parliament, Hashemi Rafsanjani, are incapable of being converted to democracy. A snake cannot give birth to a dove."

The Mujahidin's French-language weekly, Iran Liberation, published in its issue of Aug. 24 facsimiles of letters recently sent to certain members of the Tehran regime by Mr. Bani-Sadr and Admiral Madani, accompanied by the headline "Faced with the power of the democratic alternative offered by the NRC, Madani and Bani-Sadr kowtow to Khomeini".

According to Mr. Bani-Sadr, the attacks are an act of "intellectual terrorism". "Just as long as Rajavi needed me as a token of legitimacy, he was tolerant; but once he came to France he revealed his hegemonic tendencies. He is incapable of hearing a dissenting voice without getting the urge to use a bit of stick."

It is easy to imagine the purgatory Mr. Bani-Sadr must have gone through at Auvers-sur-Oise, cooped up in a small villa with his unmanageable son-in-law for almost three years. "I'm used to that sort of thing," says Mr. Bani-Sadr. "Don't forget that I took a lot from Khomeini in silence before blowing up and telling him what I thought of his regime. It was the same with Massoud: I stuck it out for a long time before

finally telling him that, whether he had intended to or not, he had placed his hands in Saddam Hussein's hands."

Admiral Madani shares Bani-Sadr's view that the most important thing is to end the extremism and intolerance that has caused such damage to Iran. "The Mujahidin are sincere people, but they are blinded by their fanaticism and believe that they alone are in possession of the truth. That's dictatorship at its worst." Adm. Madani knows something about his compatriots' fanaticism. Defence minister in the first Mehdi Bazargan government, then commander-in-chief of the navy and governor of Khuzistan province, he stood at the presidential elections of January 1980 and got almost two million votes. He was then stripped of his electoral mandate because of "suspicious links with the CIA and the United States" and had to flee the country in September 1980. The publicist, Adm. Madani says he is still in contact with certain high-ranking members of the Tehran regime, in parliament, the army, the clergy and business: "So I know what's going on back home. I think it will be possible to bring about a gradual change of policy in Tehran with the help of moderate elements in the regime. But I don't think another revolution is either possible or desirable. Enough blood has already been shed."

Adm. Madani has already turned down offers of the post of prime minister and commander-in-chief of the army: "I had no intention of becoming a puppet prime minister, so I asked for full powers, first so I could end the stupid war, then so the clergy could be eased out of government and the regime made more human and rational. What we need are measures that will encourage reconciliation, not revenge."

Both Adm. Madani and, to a lesser extent, Mr. Bani-Sadr hope to sap the Khomeini regime from within, and to play an active role when the time for the succession comes. Their approach obviously runs counter to Mr. Rajavi's line, which is that there can be no change in Tehran without an armed struggle. He dismisses those of every political colouring from the far left to the far right, who criticise him for having prematurely organised an armed uprising in September 1981, which had the effect of strengthening Khomeini's regime and stepping up repression. "We are preparing," he says, "to smash the vicious circle of terror which Khomeini has succeeded in imposing on the Iranian people, and then to strike the decisive blow that will sweep away his regime."

Many of those who once had high hopes of the Mujahidin now say they are deeply disappointed by their sectarianism and by Mr. Rajavi's failure to show the kind of ideological flexibility that would have made his organisation a credible alternative to the Khomeini regime. The NRC, which was originally intended to embrace a wide spectrum of opinion, has become no more than the tool of the Mujahidin since the departure of Mr. Bani-Sadr and his supporters.

An Iranian academic who was once a keen supporter of the Mujahidin sums up the situation as follows: "All of us, whether monarchists or republicans, have fallen victim to our condition — exile. Boxed up in our Paris ghettos, we've lost sight of the objective we should be aiming for, in other words the closing of our ranks to combat the Khomeini regime. Our enemy No. 1 is not in Tehran, but here, among us. But then I imagine this is the problem that has always faced long-standing exile."

— Le Monde.

Can Arab agriculture achieve self-sufficiency?

To free themselves from food imports, oil-rich Arab states have ploughed money into agriculture — only to find that high-technology irrigation means they pay a lot for "food security".

By John Madeley

JEDDAH — In 1983, the 22 countries which comprise the Arab World paid out a total of \$22 billion for their food imports — an average of nearly \$150 per person. The countries, lying in one of the world's most arid regions, are now seeking to grow all the food they need themselves.

Arab estimates suggest that food imports could increase 15-fold by the end of the century, largely due to rapid population growth. The populations of most of the Arab countries will double in less than 23 years, giving them growth rates among the highest in the world.

Cereals account for over three-quarters of the Arab World's food imports. In 1983, some \$17 billion was spent on cereals, chiefly wheat. With the possible exception of Sudan, every country in the region is a net importer of food.

At a Pan-Arab Conference on cereal production, held in July in Amman, a "Committee on Cereals" was set up so Arab countries could work together to increase cereal output, improve storage facilities and adopt a unified approach to buying cereals. The 22 states want to use their combined buying power to strike better deals with the exporters of North America and Europe.

The countries, which earlier this century were as a region a net exporter of food, now believe they must regain the capacity to grow rather than import their daily bread. Importing food is expensive, makes them dependent on the goodwill of the exporters, and drives up the price of wheat for

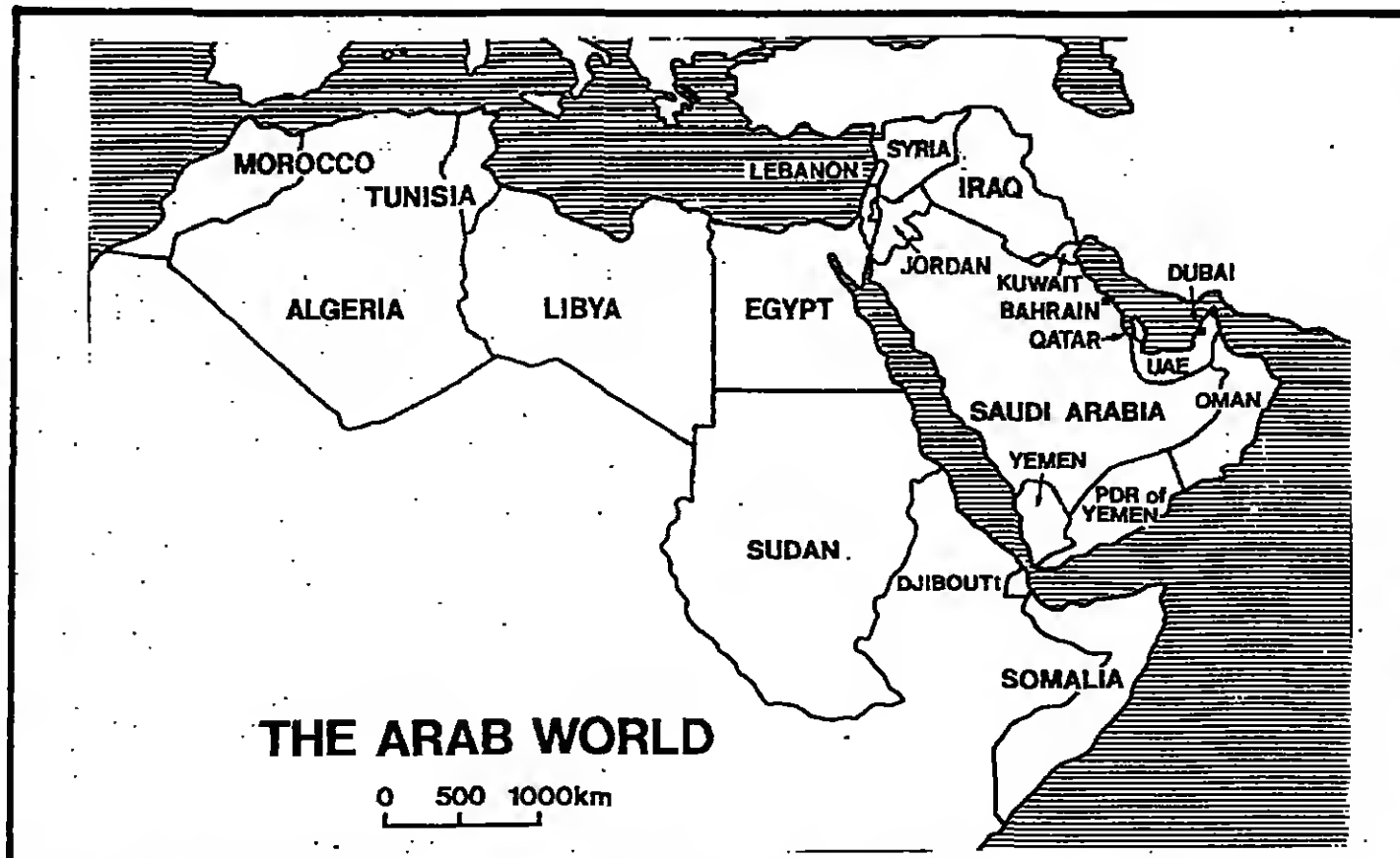
poorer Third World nations. On the surface prospects seem good. The region is estimated to have around 120 million hectares of land that is suitable for cultivation, almost 60 per cent of which has yet to be ploughed. This land lies chiefly in four countries — Iraq, North Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

But rainfall in the region is low, normally below 200 mm a year. Except for North Yemen, food output from rainfed agriculture is small. Iraq has its Tigris-Euphrates river system, but the Gulf countries have no great rivers to supply irrigation water.

"From water were all things made" says the Holy Koran. Successful agriculture in Saudi Arabia has traditionally meant adapting almost every aspect of social and economic life to the seasonal patterns of an unmodified desert environment. Oil revenue has opened the possibility of changing that environment through massive irrigation.

To bring virgin land into production, Gulf farmers are now tapping 30,000-year-old underground aquifers. A number of private wheat growers in Saudi Arabia are bringing up water from depths as great as 1.6 kilometres. The cost of the technology is high, but the cost to future generations might be higher if this irreplaceable groundwater is used up and barren land is left.

In the Gulf state of Qatar and in parts of Libya there is evidence that underground water is being depleted at an alarming rate. Geographers believe that in Libya, aquifers are being drained at four times their recharge rate. In August, Libya inaugurated an



"artificial river", the source of which is the huge aquifer under Libya, Egypt, the Sudan and Chad. This will accelerate discharge rates.

Apart from irrigation schemes which are unsustainable in the long run, what are the prospects for Arab agriculture?

The track record has not been good. Yields in the Arab World are generally lower than in other "Third World" countries with similar environments. Food production in the region has risen only 2 per cent in the last decade, with per capita production dec-

lining in most of the 22 countries.

"Everyone is ringing the bell for political freedom", said Dr. Fahal Jabr, general secretary of the Arab Federation for Food Industries, "but unless we have food security, everything else becomes meaningless".

Most Arab countries now plan to spend more on agriculture, beginning by paying farmers more for their produce.

The richer oil-exporting countries in the Gulf devoted vast sums to agriculture in the wake of the mid-1970s oil price hike, and some are seeing impressive res-

ults. Saudi Arabia, with a population of nearly 10 million, has achieved its goal of self-sufficiency in wheat. It accomplished this largely by offering farmers a government price of \$1,000 per tonne for wheat which costs farmers \$570 per tonne to produce.

To import a tonne of an equivalent soft wheat from the United States would have cost around \$153 per tonne. Thus Saudi Arabia is paying dearly for the "security" self-sufficiency brings, and countries with smaller incomes could not afford the same policies.

The Saudi system also tends to ignore the smallholders on their unirrigated plots — the farmers to whom the nation might have to turn as oil revenues decline.

There are signs that recently even the Saudis are reconsidering their subsidy, perhaps learning from events in the Sudan. Arab countries seeing the Sudan in the 1970s as "the breadbasket of the Arab World" pumped in vast sums to step up food output. The schemes failed, and the Sudan now faces drought and famine on an unprecedented scale — a Ethiopian feature.

Aswan Dam spares Egypt from bitter drought effects

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuter

CAIRO — The Aswan High Dam, Egypt's grandest construction project since the Pharaohs built the pyramids, may at last have proved its worth.

Officials say that by regulating the flow of the River Nile, the Soviet-built dam has spared Egypt from the ravages of the drought affecting much of the rest of Africa.

"Had it not been for the tremendous reservoir of water behind the dam, Egypt would have been in a situation similar to that in 17 African countries hit by drought," says Mohammad Ali Khalifa, chairman of the High Dam General Corporation.

A quarter of a century ago, in January 1960, then President Gamal Abdul Nasser detonated a charge of dynamite to blast away rocks and start an army of 40,000 Egyptian workers and 800 Soviet experts building the dam. It cost \$1 billion.

It was President Nasser's cherished dream but was already the subject of bitter controversy.

Despairing of Western funds, President Nasser had nationalised the Suez canal to finance the dam, which was followed by the 1956 Anglo-French-Israeli invasion of Egypt and opening new avenues for cooperation between Cairo and Moscow.

President Nasser's successor Anwar Sadat switched allegiance to the United States during the late 1970s and by 1981 had expelled Soviet military advisers and Moscow's ambassador, accused of stirring unrest. In Egypt's semi-official press, debate raged over the High Dam's merits up to and after the Russians completed it in 1970.

For 50 centuries previously, Egyptian farmers were at the mercy of the annual Nile flood caused by the great rains in tropical East Africa.

By storing water in Lake Nasser, the High Dam, which also generated cheap hydroelectricity, allowed year-round irrigation and three annual crops. In years of low flood, a constant flow downstream could be maintained.

But critics called it an ecological disaster. They said it deprived

farmland of valuable silt, and maintained that a raised water table and the lack of floodwater to flush the soil caused farmland to grow increasingly saline.

Mr. Khalifa told reporters the African drought had robbed the Nile of 20 billion cubic metres of water a year since 1979.

If lower Egypt were still dependent on an annual flood, there would have been a disaster similar to that in 1914, when there was widespread hunger, he said.

Egypt is already among the world's biggest grain importers. For the 1986 fiscal year, starting in October, it will seek \$250 million of U.S. food aid.

Egypt has accused Libya, which borders on Egypt, of training pilots to bomb the High Dam.

Officials have also had to allay fears that it might be vulnerable to earthquakes. They have denied that recent tremors in the Aswan area were caused by the weight of water in Lake Nasser, 500 kilometres long.

But an end to the debate in the semi-official media has delighted Soviet and East bloc diplomats here. They see it as a sign of fence-mending by Hosni Mubarak, who became president after Muslim zealots killed Mr. Sadat, who was seen as the godfather of an anti-Soviet media campaign with the High Dam as one of its victims.

Last year, Egypt and the Soviet Union exchanged ambassadors again. "We are feeling more at ease now in Egypt than we did at any time in the past decade," a senior East European diplomat said.

Egyptian officials, however, discourage speculation that the warm-up with Moscow will be at the expense of the close links that Mr. Sadat forged with the United States.

Egypt is the second biggest recipient of U.S. aid after Israel. Military, civil and food aid this year will total about \$2.25 billion and the Egyptians are seeking more than three billion next year.

Meanwhile, cracks have developed in the turbines of the High Dam power plant. A U.S. firm, Allis-Chalmers of Wisconsin, has a contract worth \$100 million to repair them by 1990.

Recession exposes fragility of Latin American progress

GENEVA — The International economic crisis has had serious repercussions on Latin America. Financial factors have been responsible for this, added to worsening terms of trade and declining exports due to recession in industrialised countries and their adoption of protectionist policies.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO's) Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC) has estimated that the loss of potential product attributable to higher international interest rates is five times greater than the loss caused by the decline in terms of trade. It is estimated that, in 1983, a one per cent increase in the rate of interest entailed a loss, for the region as a whole, of \$2,350 million, whereas a similar drop in the terms of trade meant a loss of \$714 million.

The effect of the higher interest rates was aggravated by the anti-cyclical policy of the international banks, which reduced transfers to the region dramatically. Loans to Latin America fell from the pre-recession level of around \$30,000 million a year to roughly half that figure in 1982 and to about \$4,000 million in 1983.

Because most Latin American countries have made intensive use of foreign capital, largely at the instigation of the international banks themselves, the continent is more vulnerable than other parts of the world to this particular aspect of the crisis, says Victor Tokman, Chief of PREALC.

The Latin American countries are affected in various ways. On the one hand, some of the repercussions are similar to those experienced in the developed countries, which shows that the region has attained a high level of modernisation. On the other, they continue to suffer from adjustments in the labour market which are characteristic of developing areas and which prove that significant sectors of the economy are still being by-passed by the modernisation process.

Jobs, hours, wages

In the first place, there has been an increase in the level of open unemployment. In 1983, it reached an average of 10.5 per cent compared with a traditional level of around six per cent. This has the effect of disrupting the trend towards greater employment stability, of changing the composition of the labour force — in that the primary source of labour (male wage-earning heads of households) has suffered more directly than in the past — and of lowering the participation rate, which suggests that workers are becoming discouraged by the lack of employment opportunities.

Secondly, there has been a reduction in daily hours of work, leading to an increase in visible underemployment. In a number of cities for which information is available, this is thought to represent an additional one per cent in the rate of registered unemployment.

A third repercussion in most Latin American countries has been the cut in real wages. The reduction in the wage bill is also one of the objectives of economic adjustment policies which assume, in many cases erroneously, that wages must be brought down in order to increase the demand for labour, restore lost competitiveness on international markets and stabilise domestic prices.

At the same time, there have been a number of less visible repercussions, generally in the form of expanding employment in the urban informal sector activities, accompanied in most verifiable cases by a drop in the average income of those engaged in that sector. This growth of the informal sector reverses a trend that has been apparent for many years in a number of countries, and its effectiveness as a means of economic



Drawing portrays socio-political changes in Latin America as depicted by Chilean novelist, journalist and poet Ariel Dorfman in his recent work 'No Return to Eden'

adjustment varies from country to country.

These repercussions have had three broad consequences. First, there has been an increase in the underemployment of the labour force in the region, reversing the trend of slow and steady improvement in the situation over the past 30 years. Available estimates indicate that there has been a return to the type of employment situation that existed at the beginning of the 1970s — an illustration both of the seriousness of the crisis and of the fragile nature of the progress achieved.

Moreover, there has been a deterioration in the pattern of income distribution, especially in the level of welfare of the poorest groups.

This is presumably because the process of economic adjustment has discriminated against the poor, for whom unemployment usually means zero income. Earnings in the informal sector (generally the lowest income bracket) have declined and the functional distribution of income has deteriorated, owing both to the drop in employment and the decline in remuneration.

Politically sensitive

Finally, the problem of unemployment is becoming more visible and politically more sensitive. "Unemployment is difficult to conceal and is increasingly spreading to larger social groups and to the more organised sectors which, though in different degree, are in a better position to make their demands heard," Mr. Tokman says. "Thus, the poorer segments of the population are obliged, on the one hand, to share

their labour market with numerous additional workers who cannot find employment elsewhere in the economy and, on the other hand and in their own homes, to share what little food and housing facilities they possess with relations and friends. This, in turn, generates growing social pressure until, as all these repercussions combine, unemployment ceases to be a technical problem and becomes a political issue. Tackling this issue is a task which cannot be put off any longer." — ILO report.

Business entertaining tops annual defence budget in Japan

By Patrick Massey
Reuter

TOKYO — After a difficult day at the office the Japanese businessman steered his client into a night club, found a table and sat for a moment savouring the aura of subdued opulence.

At that point, before even ordering a drink, the businessman was \$240 poorer than when he walked in.

A demurely clad hostess slid over, took a seat, poured some whisky. The bill started climbing like a scrambled jet fighter.

"Sometimes a client will leave here with a bill for 800,000 yen (\$3,200)," reflected Yoko Nakayama, who runs the Dolphin Club in the heart of the Ginza entertainment district. She displayed a bottle of cognac wrapped in purple velvet.

"This costs 400,000 yen (\$1,600). A customer buys it and we keep it for him on the shelf. Apart from drink the charge for occupying a seat is 30,000 yen (\$120).

The 30 or so patrons in well-cut business suits seemed oblivious to any thought of bills. They downed the drinks with zest and basked in the rapt gazes of their hostesses.

The scene helped to explain why business expenses in Japan last year came to a record \$14 billion, a good 25 per cent higher than the national defence budget.

"Entertaining plays a very important part in Japanese business life," explained Keiichi Nagamatsu, assistant financial affairs director of the Keidanren (federation of economic organisations).

"In the West, a businessman

will often entertain a client in his own home. In Japan most homes are too small and too far from the city for this. So the entertainment must be in restaurants and night clubs."

Mr. Nagamatsu complained about the clampdown imposed two years ago by tax authorities on all forms of business entertaining.

"Only small companies are allowed to deduct business entertaining from their tax returns," he said in an interview. "Companies capitalised at below 50 million yen (\$200,000) can deduct three million yen (\$12,000). Very small companies below 10 million yen (\$40,000) can deduct four million yen (\$16,000)."

"Even then there are strict limits. The maximum deductible for a business lunch is 3,000 yen (\$12). Cabarets and other luxuries are

not deductible."

Keidanren estimated that about two thirds of total business entertaining was conducted by the smaller firms.

"Even for small businesses entertaining is very important," said an antique dealer who declined to be named. "That's the Japanese way. Without it you can't do business here. Unlike in the United States, there is no such thing as 'business only'."

"For a small company, business entertaining probably amounts to 20 per cent of its costs. For a giant company the ratio is much smaller."

Tax clampdown or not, nearly 2,000 luxury night clubs in the Ginza alone thrive on business entertainment. Another typical one is the Club Tsukasa run by Tsukasa Florio.

Do the Tokyo girls go out with customers after hours? "That is a purely private matter for them," said Yoko of the Dolphin Club.

The common belief is that many of the hostesses become mistresses to the wealthier clients, hoping for financial backing to set up their own clubs.

One businessman who declined to be named estimated that up to 80 per cent of apartments in a fashionable Tokyo district were occupied by mistresses or "nigo" as they are termed.

Many of the more successful hostesses operate as freelancers, receiving no wages but taking a proportion of a customer's bill. Under this system they are also responsible for the customers' debts. A girl must therefore have substantial sponsors before being accepted as a freelance.

In the Hitsugiya Club (the name means "sheep"), hostess Naomi Namba said most of her customers simply want to air their private problems to a sympathetic, beautiful girl.

"Problems at home, problems at work, that sort of thing."

What if their problem were shortage of money?

"A man with such a problem," Naomi murmured, "would never get in here in the first place."

Princess Diana said to be 'totally in charge' of Prince Charles

By Ronald Thomson
Reuter

LONDON — Avid for even a tiny peek into the closed world of royalty, Britons are being regaled with reports suggesting that shy-smiling Princess Diana has turned into a lady with a whim of iron.

The 23-year-old future queen is portrayed by the popular media as revealing unexpected strength of character and a steely core since her marriage in 1981 to Prince Charles, heir to the throne.

Buckingham Palace officials deny it, but several newspapers insist that rift with the blonde princess led to the resignation last week of Prince Charles's top aide and confidant.

Private Secretary Edward Adeane was the sixth member of the royal household to quit since Princess Diana brought her own golden image to the monarchy. His resignation, by "mutual consent," boosted speculation that some discord reigns within palace walls.

Nigel Dempster, dean of London's gossip columnists, advanced this view of the princess in a television interview: "She is totally in charge of Prince Charles, who was originally thought to be a strong person. He is now so wet, as they say in upper-class circles, that you could shoot ducks off his back."

Word emanating from royal insiders suggests that Prince Charles, 36, deferring to the lady known to Britons as "Princess DP", has already eurbed his old interest in blood sports and become something of a vegetarian.

His wife is known to have an aversion to the hunt and shooting set favoured by many members of the royal family. The heir to the throne has also cut back heavily on public appearances so that he can spend as much time as possible with his two sons, two-year-old William and infant Prince Harry.

Prince Charles has only 11 official engagements planned for the next six months, compared to 69 for his sister Princess Anne and 63 for his mother, Queen Elizabeth.

Princess Diana's belief that parents should be with their offspring as often as feasible — although the children are unlikely to accompany them to Australia in October and November — is in marked contrast to royal family cus-

tom. Palace sources say the queen was an infrequent visitor to the nursery when her children were small.

But, according to the News of the World newspaper, "Diana pops into the nursery unannounced, much to the chagrin of nanny Barbara Barnes. The nanny expects to be in charge, but the princess refuses to accept this."

Princess Diana's close attention to her children at inopportune times was described in the press as one of the irritations that made Mr. Adeane decide to quit after six years of grooming Prince Charles for the throne.

The Sunday Mirror said the 45-year-old bachelor became frustrated by having to discuss Princess Diana's schedule while pop music blared over the radio and the two boys played at his feet.

"Edward felt this wasn't an atmosphere most conducive to discussing work," the paper quoted an unnamed royal source as saying. "He had simply had enough."

Mr. Adeane, whose father spent 19 years as private secretary to the queen, regarded the princess as "all too modern", the source said, while she found him "bossy and Victorian".

The mass-circulation daily Mirror said it was thought the two began "clashing" as far back as her first foreign tour, to Australia and New Zealand in 1983.

Mr. Adeane took on work for Princess Diana, in addition to looking after Prince Charles, when her principal aide Oliver Everett left last year after rumours of disagreement.

The loss of royal help, including a valet and a bodyguard, prompted a cartoon in the Sunday People newspaper of harassed Charles, with a squalling baby under his arm, serving Princess Diana with a single sausage at the dinner table and saying:

"Sorry, darling, it's the best I can do with all the staff gone."

Mr. Adeane is due to leave in March, presumably to take up an interrupted law career, and no successor has been named.

But there is speculation that the new top aide to the royal couple will be Robert Fellowes, now assistant private secretary to the Queen.

Mr. Fellowes, 42, happens to be Princess Diana's brother-in-law.

Artic weather conditions limit English league Liverpool thrashes Norwich

LONDON (R) — Chelsea grabbed a 1-1 draw against Arsenal with a last-minute equaliser from striker David Speedie in one of only three English first division soccer matches to survive the artic weather currently sweeping Britain.

Underoil heating at Anfield paid dividends for defending champions Liverpool as they beat Norwich 4-0, but the heated pitch at Highfield road proved no help to Coventry, who went down 3-0 to Aston Villa.

Only 18 of Saturday's 62 scheduled English and Scottish games survived the snow and sub-zero temperatures which have caused over 100 matches to be postponed in the past two weeks.

A close-range header by England striker Paul Mariner in the 76th minute, after a move involving international colleagues Tony Woodcock and Kenny Sansom, looked enough to guarantee three points for Arsenal at Stamford Bridge.

But the young Chelsea side, whose never-say-die attitude has gained them many supporters this season, conjured a dramatic equaliser when full-back Colin Lee's long free kick was headed down for Speedie to lob past Arsenal goalkeeper John Lukic.

Arsenal remain fifth with 40 points, nine behind leaders Everton whose clash away to second-placed Tottenham, on 47 points, was postponed because of a frozen

White Hart Lane pitch. The first half saw Chelsea having more of the play in front of 34,700 spectators, but Arsenal creating the best chances with Woodcock responsible for two glaring misses.

It was therefore no surprise when Woodcock sent Sansom away down the left wing and the full-back's deep cross was hammered home by Mariner for his first goal in 10 games.

But Speedie, who had seen Lukic block two fine second half efforts, was no hand to tuck home defender Joe McLaughlin's header in the dying seconds to grab a share of the points.

Liverpool rebounded from this week's 2-0 defeat by Juventus in the European Super Cup to thrash Norwich.

The European Champions started at a "Wark" and finished at a "Rush". Ian Rush and Kenny Dalglish combined in the 36th minute to leave John Wark with room to clip a shot just inside the post.

For a while it looked like Liverpool would settle for a narrow victory but in the last 10 minutes they exploded with two goals from Rush and one from the veteran

Dalglish. Liverpool's win moves them above Norwich and Chelsea to sixth place on 38 points, and the style of their victory indicates they cannot yet be written off in the championship race.

Coventry's defeat keeps them fourth from bottom, three points ahead of Ipswich, who have two games in hand.

Three teams fighting for promotion took part in the three surviving second division matches. Leeds United achieved the best result, a 5-0 thrashing of second-bottom Notts County which included a hat-trick from Tommy Wright.

Portsmouth will be disappointed with their 0-0 draw against Middlesbrough but Manchester City will be extremely pleased with their 3-0 defeat of Wimbledon. It takes City to third place, equal on points with Oxford United, who are second on goal difference, and two behind leaders Blackburn.

Aberdeen stretched their lead in the Scottish Premier Division to eight points after their 5-1 demolition of Rangers.

Striker Frank McDougall bit a hat-trick for the defending champions but the game was marred by an ugly incident in the first half which saw Rangers defender Ally Dawson and Aberdeen's Steward McKimmie ordered off for fighting.

Decker sets world best mark in Los Angeles 2,000m race

LOS ANGELES (R) — Mary Decker bounced back from her controversial Olympic clash with Zola Budd by shattering the world indoor best 2,000 metres mark in Los Angeles Friday night.

Her time of five minutes 34.52 seconds was almost nine seconds better than the previous best 5:43.30 set by Yekaterina Podkopaeva of the Soviet Union in Moscow two years ago.

Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan won the invitation mile in 3:56.34, just 0.01 seconds ahead of American Steve Scott. New Zealander John Walker was third in 3:57.56.

But it was Decker's night as she

made her first track appearance since she collided with South African-born Budd and crashed out of the Olympic 3,000 metres final last August.

She burst ahead from the start and destroyed her rivals with a fine display of front running. Fellow American Ruth Wysocki, among those critical of Decker for refusing to soften her attitude towards Budd since the games, came second, more than 11 seconds adrift.

Decker said: "I am happy, contented. The crowd tonight was very supportive, especially the kids."

"I feel I have broken the ice and I was surprised at how easy it was."

The capacity crowd of 13,702 which had welcomed Decker with a mixture of applause and boos, greeted her performance with a standing ovation.

Other winners included triple Olympic gold medalist Valerie Brisco-Hooks. She won the 440 yards in 53.41 seconds while Olympic silver medalist Greg Foster, also American, completed a 50 and 60 yards hurdles "double" in 5.96 and 7.11.

Rono makes comeback

NAIROBI (R) — Overweight, unfit but determined, Kenya's world 3,000 metres and 3,000 metres steeplechase record-holder Henry Rono made a surprise comeback Saturday when he competed in the annual Nairobi Dam relay.

After covering his 4.5-km leg in 16 minutes 0.2 seconds Rono said: "I feel so tired, but I am determined to keep it up."

Asked to explain his move, he said: "It is partly because the standard of athletics in Kenya is deteriorating and needs somebody like me to revive it and partly it is in line with my promise when I started setting world records that I would not retire until 1986."

Australian Dave Smith, 10th in the Los Angeles 20 kms, set the early pace but Damilano and Lelievre caught him just before the three-km mark when the tall Italian went in front.

Lelievre, fourth over 20 kms in the 1982 European Championships in Athens and fifth in the 1983 Helsinki World Championships, clocked 19 minutes 6.22 seconds to finish more than five seconds ahead of Damilano and nearly 10 in front of Smith.

French veteran walks away with indoor games gold

PARIS (R) — Gerard Lelievre, ending a long career in style, brought home France their first gold medal of the World Indoor Games when he won the five kilometres walk Saturday.

Olympic and world 20-km champion Ernesto Canto of Mexico did not make his scheduled appearance in the walk, leaving the games without a single reigning Olympic individual champion.

Lelievre, 35, finally got the better of 1980 Olympic 20km champion Maurizio Damilano in an absorbing duel which opened the

second and final day of the meeting.

Australian Dave Smith, 10th in the Los Angeles 20 kms, set the early pace but Damilano and Lelievre caught him just before the three-km mark when the tall Italian went in front.

Lelievre, fourth over 20 kms in the 1982 European Championships in Athens and fifth in the 1983 Helsinki World Championships, clocked 19 minutes 6.22 seconds to finish more than five seconds ahead of Damilano and nearly 10 in front of Smith.

U.S. Cycling Federation acts on blood boosting case

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (R) — The U.S. Cycling Federation (USCF) Friday night suspended two staff members and demoted an officer for their roles in "blood boosting" by some U.S. Olympic cyclists, USCF President Phil Voxland said.

No action was taken against any of the 24 athletes in the U.S. team which won nine medals at the 1984 Olympics.

Eddy Borysewicz, who was the U.S. cycling team's coach at the Olympics, and Ed Burke, the technical director for the team, were suspended for 30 days without pay, Voxland said.

USCF board of directors member Mike Frayse, who was the team manager, was demoted from first to third vice-president and was asked to resign as a vice-president, Voxland said.

Frayse was removed as chairman of the committee which oversees international competition, Voxland said.

Earlier Friday, the USCF banned all types of "blood boosting" and issued a report on U.S. cyclists' use of the techniques, which aim to enhance athletic performance by increasing the blood's ability to deliver oxygen.

The report said seven U.S. cyclists were not held responsible because they were entitled to rely on their coaches, he said.

Olympic cyclists had apparently received transfusions of donors' blood and another athlete "may have had his own blood or his own packed cells infused into his body at a hospital near the Olympics."

The transfusions "were made available to the athletes by some USCF Olympic team staff," USCF Director David Prouty said in a statement read to a news conference.

No USCF or U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) permission was ever sought or given for the blood treatments, which "took place without the knowledge of the executive director or president of the USCF and without the knowledge of any USOC administrative official," Prouty said.

The cyclists were not held responsible because they were entitled to rely on their coaches, he said.

Commenting on the actions taken by the USCF, the governing body of U.S. amateur cycling, Voxland noted the "ambiguities of the complex decisions the coaches were faced with."

"It wasn't easy for the coaches to decide what to do and it isn't easy for anyone to say they were entirely wrong," Voxland said.

Moses charged on one count

LOS ANGELES (R) — U.S. Olympic gold medal hurdler Edwin Moses was charged Friday with soliciting an act of prostitution but the Los Angeles city prosecutor's office dropped a charge of possessing marijuana.

Moses, 29, was arrested early last Sunday morning after an encounter with a policewoman posing as a prostitute. If found guilty he could face a maximum sentence of six months in jail and a fine of \$1,000.

The prosecutor's office said it would not proceed with a charge of possessing marijuana because the amount alleged to have been found in Moses' car was small.

Moses, who won gold medals in the 1976 and 1984 Olympic 400 metres hurdles, was one of 82 people arrested in a vice squad sweep of Sunset Boulevard, in Los Angeles, last weekend.

The prosecutor's office said charges had been filed so far against 30 of those arrested.

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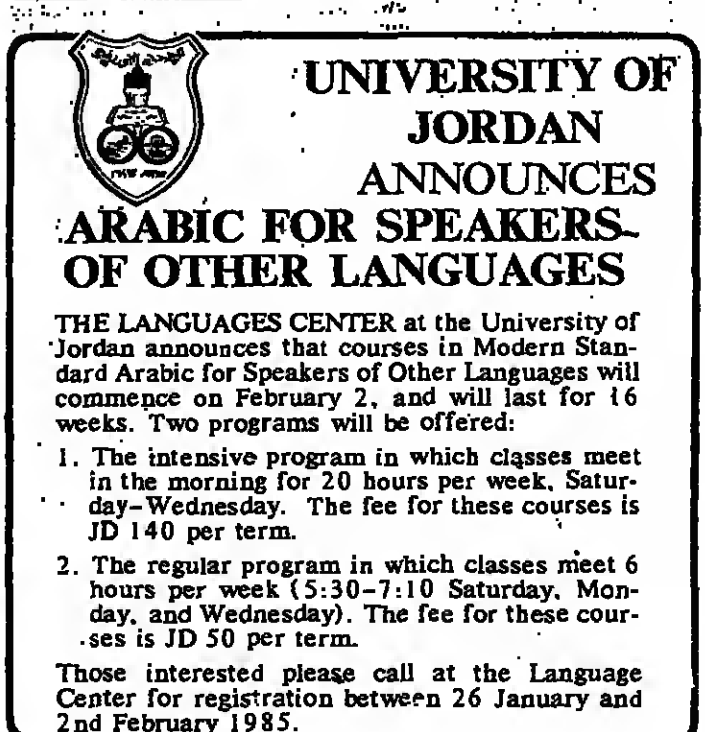
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UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN ANNOUNCES ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

THE LANGUAGE CENTER at the University of Jordan announces that courses in Modern Standard Arabic for Speakers of Other Languages will commence on February 2, and will last for 16 weeks. Two programs will be offered:

1. The intensive program in which classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday. The fee for these courses is JD 140 per term.
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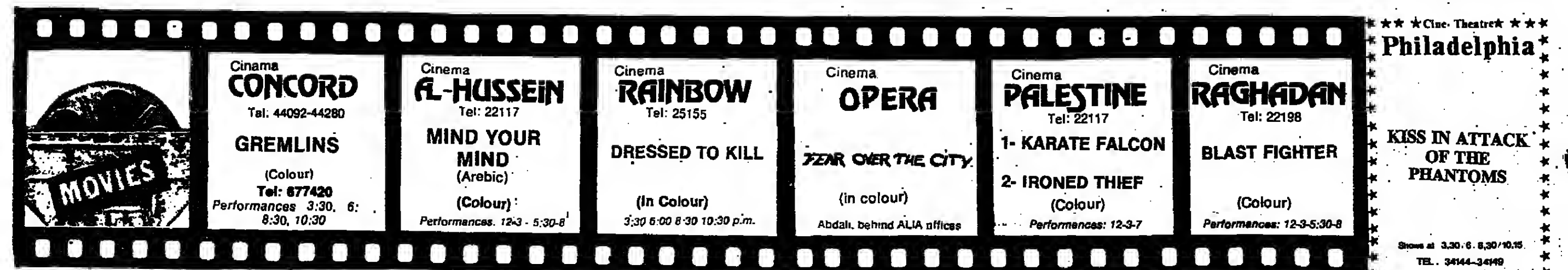


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Misery grows for sugar producers

LONDON (R) — Such were the riches once delivered by sugar that grateful plantation owners built churches with altars of gold in the middle of Latin American jungles.

Now that a bag of sugar costs less than a bag of sand — in the words of a Brazilian sugar industry official — a Reuters survey shows that many sugar producers are hard pressed to cope with a mounting world glut and the changing tastes of Western consumers.

At less than four cents a pound, world sugar prices are at their lowest in 15 years and well below the 10 to 12 cents a pound it costs to produce for even the most efficient producers.

Perhaps even worse than their present misery is a growing conviction among many sugar producers that it will be some time before they have the chance to jump of the dizzy spiral of rising output and falling prices.

There is already enough unwanted sugar piled up in warehouses around the world to satisfy about 40 per cent of annual world consumption of around 96 million tonnes.

Fairly soon, if the gloomier forecasts prove true, producers will be practically giving the stuff away.

Cuba, one of the biggest exporters, is shielded to some extent from the full blast of competition by its reliable and sweet-toothed friends behind the iron curtain.

But even in countries where governments stump up massive subsidies to keep sugar growers sweet — Brazil alone spends \$300 million a year subsidising sugar exports — farmers are scarcely

sanguine about their future.

Australians talk of collapse

Australia's sugar industry, spread out along the lush coast of Queensland and northern New South Wales, has long prided itself on being among the world's most efficient. Yet farmers' representatives now talk openly of imminent collapse for the 120-year-old industry.

In the past year, nearly 300 farmers have left the industry in Australia and another 1,000 or so could sell their farms in the next couple of years if prices do not recover, according to a spokesman for the Queensland cane growers association.

Philippines curb output

Ailing world prices have prompted the Philippines to curb output and earmark some 80,000 hectares of sugar land for yellow corn instead. Earnings from sugar exports sank 17 per cent to \$233 million in the first 10 months of last year.

In Negros Occidental, the Philippines' main sugar-producing province, some planters have set aside part of their idle land for subsistence planting by labourers who are suffering from the dismal situation.

Thais hope for change

In Thailand, Deputy Industry Minister Chirayut Isarangkul Na Ayudhya told Reuters Thai sugarcane growers had no choice but to try and ride out the hard times.

He thought the depressed world sugar price had probably bottomed out and should recover soon.

The Thai agriculture ministry says the cane growing area fell to some 587,000 hectares this season from a record 624,000 hectares at the start of the decade, though since 1982 cane growers and sugar millers have shared the burdens of depressed conditions.

Brazil may cut exports

In Brazil, sugar and alcohol institute president Mr. Antonio Jose de Sousa said Brazil might cut back on its sugar exports to coming years if prices remained low, and convert more sugar cane to alcohol for use as motor fuel and for export.

Even Cuba, kept afloat by help from its Soviet Bloc allies, knows how precarious its buoyancy can be.

Without such help, Cuban leader Mr. Fidel Castro said recently, "our economy, which depends mainly on sugar, whose buying power today in capitalist markets is lower than 50 years ago during the great depression, would be condemned to stagnation."

Moscow buys more than half Cuba's sugar at well above world rates. Even so, Havana has taken to using sugar in cattle feed and making paper, fibreboard and fuel from its byproducts.

Prices may dip more

Mr. Stephen Vincent, an analyst with London commodity brokers Woodhouse, Drake and Carey,

reckons that record crops expected in Russia and China will mean another world production surplus of some 1.2 million tonnes this year.

Prices, he says, could grind down to 2-3/4 cents a pound by the summer.

Aggravating the slide in world prices has been the growing use of sugar alternatives made from corn syrup and a new breed of artificial sweeteners as the West loses its taste for sugar.

The international sugar agreement — which tried to bolster prices by forcing producers to hold stocks and limit the flow of sugar onto the world market — effectively died at the end of 1984 after cash-strapped producers failed to reach a compromise with importers wary of making sacrifices in a saturated market.

The old accord buckled under a general lack of confidence in its ability to achieve its goal of supporting world prices within a price range of 13 to 23 cents a pound.

A new pact came into force at the beginning of this year, but unlike its predecessor it contains no price stabilisation or stock-holding provisions.

Its main function will be to provide administrative and statistical backup for the international sugar community, and a forum for the groundwork for another agreement with economic provisions some time in the future.

With no sign of any miracles on the horizon, producers may soon decide that a resumption of earnest talks on a new agreement is their best hope.

Dollar retreats on Regan's remarks

NEW YORK (R) — The dollar closed lower in New York Friday amid intense speculation that a central bank, most likely the Federal Reserve (Fed), had intervened in currency markets, dealers said.

"I think they wanted to add some credibility to the statements U.S. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan made Thursday on intervention. They wanted to show the Europeans they meant it," said one trader, adding he was firmly convinced the Fed sold dollars in the afternoon.

The dollar ended at 3.1640 West German marks, about its low for the day, after closing at 3.1760 Thursday. It reached a high around midday of 3.1860 marks.

Mr. Regan said Thursday that the United States would be somewhat more willing than it has been in the past to step into the foreign exchange markets when trading becomes "disorderly."

His remarks followed the meeting in Washington of foreign ministers and central bankers from the five leading Western industrialised nations — Japan, the United States, West Germany, Britain and France.

The group reaffirmed a two-year old agreement to intervene in concert in order to smooth out erratic fluctuations in currency values.

Market sentiment is deeply divided about whether or not the Fed sold dollars Friday.

Mr. Peter Rogers of Manufacturers' Hanover Trust said there was talk of Fed intervention, but no concrete evidence of it.

"There was a great deal of rumour, but personally I'm fairly sure that there was no intervention by the Fed today," Mr. Rogers said.

Instead, he attributed the dollar's early afternoon drop to a

large commercial order that was misinterpreted as official selling because of the jitters created by the ministers' meeting.

Aside from the immediate debate surrounding whether or not the Fed was trying to knock the dollar down Friday, there was considerable discussion about whether the United States was even serious about wanting a weaker dollar.

Mr. Leslie Deak, president of Deak-Perera U.S. Inc., said, "the last thing the United States wants is for the dollar to drop. It could lead to a slowdown of funds into the United States."

Such a slowdown, he said, would make it much more difficult to finance the budget and would cause interest and inflation rates to rise.

But enough dealers believe that even if the United States was not serious about a weaker dollar, other banks were, and concerted intervention remained a strong possibility.

The British pound sterling was a beneficiary of that possibility, traders said, closing at \$1.1280 after ending Thursday night at \$1.1195.

Some currency analysts speculated that Mr. Regan's remarks may have been particularly aimed at the pound, which has plummeted record lows in the past two weeks.

The dollar closed in London at 3.1828 marks, up from 3.1805 Thursday, and at \$1.1205 to the pound from Thursday's \$1.1207.

The Bundesbank, the German central bank which has sometimes staged sudden interventions to

unravel the markets when it believes too many speculators are at work, was conspicuously absent from the daily Frankfurt fixing and the open market.

Many dealers were openly sceptical of the Washington declaration, and believe the joint resolve meant little.

"The aim of the statement was to provide ministers under pressure, like Britain's, with something to take home," said one dealer.

"I don't think central banks can counter a strong market trend," added another.

Some believed that only a partial holiday in U.S. markets next Monday prevented the dollar going even higher Friday.

The stage is set next week for the markets to test the dollar up against the next key resistance level of 3.20 marks to see whether the five governments consider this to be excessive and worthy of heavier market intervention than has been previously seen in the dollar's long upward run.

But despite the market scepticism, the Washington agreement offers some hope to governments around the world that the Reagan administration is at last becoming worried by the effects of the dollar's strength on its own economy, analysts said.

Pressure from Hardhat Export Industries probably played a part in the change of tone, they said, but it remains to be seen whether this will really lead to effective action.



Donald Regan

Without the U.S. there is little other governments can do to change market sentiment when currency flows across the exchanges these days are so great.

The Washington statement is also considered a belated warning to speculators, who have been widely blamed for betting heavily against sterling in its recent slide, regarding Britain as purely an oil producer tied to the price of oil.

With markets always open somewhere, and with the rise of currency futures and options markets, one European central bank has estimated that as little as five per cent of currency transactions are now genuine for trade or capital flow needs.

This strikes at the heart of the dependence on market forces and some analysts think it means that market "fundamentals" can no longer be relied upon to iron out money market imbalances.

Making market in Third World debt

LONDON — There has been an unusual end-of-year rush at Singer & Friedlander, the small London merchant bank which has made a speciality of helping banks clear unwanted Third World debt off their books. Half a dozen deals were done just before Christmas, and more were agreed by Dec. 31, the day most banks like their balance sheets to look their best.

Singer entered this esoteric and rather secretive business in a serious way in 1983. However, according to Mr. Victor Segal, head of its international department, it seems to have become the world leader, together with European-Inter-American Finance, a New York partner run by investment banker Mr. Martin Schubert.

Singer had a small exposure to less developed countries (LDCs) which it succeeded in selling through Mr. Schubert. "We thought, if he's got buyers, then we've got sellers," said Mr. Segal, so they formed a partnership a year ago.

Singer acts as an intermediary between banks — or in some cases trading companies — which want to trade loans to problem LDCs. Through its contacts with hundreds of banks it runs a highly sophisticated second-hand loan business.

Loan swaps

The bulk of deals passing through Singer are loan swaps rather than cash sales. So a bank with say, a lot of Argentinian loans might

swap them for Brazilian loans with a bank which felt over-exposed there. It is a process whereby banks work towards a tolerable level of exposure to all LDCs, building assets in countries where they see a business future, and running down those where they do not.

But Mr. Segal says Singer is not making a secondary market in LDC loans. "People cannot ring us up and ask us to quote a price for Mexico, for example. That's like asking a butcher: what is the price of meat today? It all depends on the meat; the cut and so on."

Nevertheless, the pricing of the loans is by far the most intriguing — and hush-hush — part of the business. The loans change hands at a discount from their face value. This can vary widely, depending on whether the loans are long-term advances to an LDC in deep trouble or a promissory note from Mexico which stands an excellent chance of being paid off.

No country rate

Other factors include: whether the loan is to the government or the private sector; how long it has to run; whether it has been rescheduled; and, of course, whether another bank is prepared to buy it.

Nobody wants pricing details to leak out. Apart from the transactions usually involving banks in some loss because the loans are sold at less than face value, Singer says it would be "misleading" to

suggest there was a going rate for any particular country.

The really sensitive issue is that prices could indicate how far banks should write down the LDC loans they still have on their books — and most could not afford to do that. If loans to a country only have a realisable value of 75 per cent, why should banks keep them on their books at 100 per cent?

This is also why trade in LDC loans makes bank supervisors slightly nervous. Singer has Bank of England approval for what it is doing, but the bank is keeping a close eye on it and would become concerned if values plummeted.

However, the practice of swapping rather than selling loans allows banks to preserve the idea that loans have changed hands at their full value. A bit like someone selling a dog for \$1 million and being paid with two cats worth \$300,000 each.

To streamline its business, Singer has built up a sophisticated computerised filing system — to which only three people have access — with details of the loans some 300 banks want to sell or buy. So if a bank offers some Nigerian loans, Singer knows within seconds which banks might be interested.

Some transactions are very complicated, with up to half a dozen banks shuffling loans around. Singer usually acts as a principal in the deals, simultaneously

buying and selling the loans "back-to-back".

This means banks do not always know who they have ultimately dealt with, which suits them since they do not like word to get out that they are trying to "dump" a particular country. However, if the documentation requires them to be identified, Singer insists on confidentiality.

Singer has done several hundred million dollars' worth of loan deals in the past year, involving dozens of banks. These included three of the largest in the world, though many customers are small banks which must be wishing they had never got into Third World lending.

The biggest single transaction was for about \$75 million, but the average is \$10 million to \$20 million. Singer makes its money by taking a percentage on the loans as they pass across its books. Where this is not possible, it charges a fee.

In terms of the total LDC debt of some \$700 billion, all this to get and fro-ing is tiny, and will not get the international banking system out of its predicament. However, it does loosen up the market and enable banks to reduce their marginal exposure to particular countries to a level where they might be able to start financing trade to them again. It also gives banks a way of spreading the LDC load more evenly among themselves.

Financial Times news feature.

Officials predict World Bank lending to fall

WASHINGTON (R) — World Bank lending is likely to fall by as much as \$2 billion this financial year as developing countries increasingly resist the tough conditions attached to its loans, according to bank officials.

The annual payout by the bank, the world's largest international development agency, was projected to total \$13 billion in the year ending this June.

But recent developments have prompted bank president Mr. Tom Clausen to put off a request to the bank's donor nations for a new general capital increase this spring.

The request is now expected to be taken up in September when the bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) hold their joint annual meetings, the officials said.

They added such countries as Brazil, South Korea, Turkey, Thailand, Peru and Argentina have extended negotiations involving some 15 to 20 loans. "These negotiations are providing much longer than was originally thought," one official said.

Many of the loans were to finance so-called structural adjustment programmes aimed at propping up the weak economies of developing countries.

But they carry tough economic conditions, similar to those attached to larger IMF loans, and are bitterly resisted by Third World nations who think of the bank as a "softer", more sympathetic agency than the fund.

These loans account for some 10 per cent of the bank's annual lending and one official stressed: "Our conditions are pretty tough and they aren't going to change."

Indeed, the United States is pressing for an increase in the bank's structural adjustment lending — a move that has triggered deep Third World resentment.

Loans for energy projects, which account for some 15 per cent of the bank's annual payout, have also slowed, in part because of lower returns in the wake of falling oil prices.

But the officials said they expect many of the delayed loans to be completed early in the bank's new financial year.

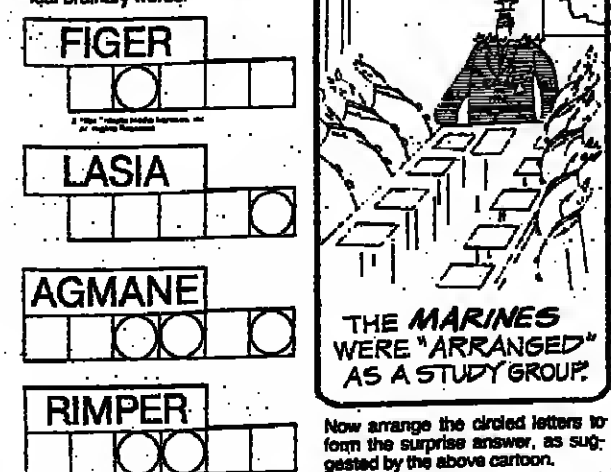
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I'm home early. My input terminal had a fight with the master computer and they're not speaking!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



THE MARINES WERE "ARRANGED" AS A STUDY GROUP.

Print answer here:

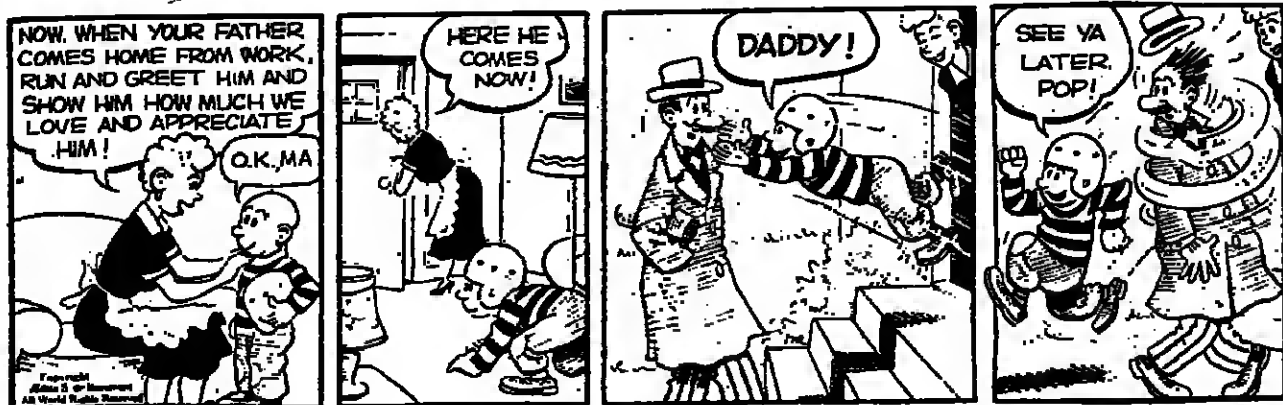
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VIRUS EXCEL LOTION PIRATE
Answer: What an alibi usually is — A "SLIP" COVER

Peanuts



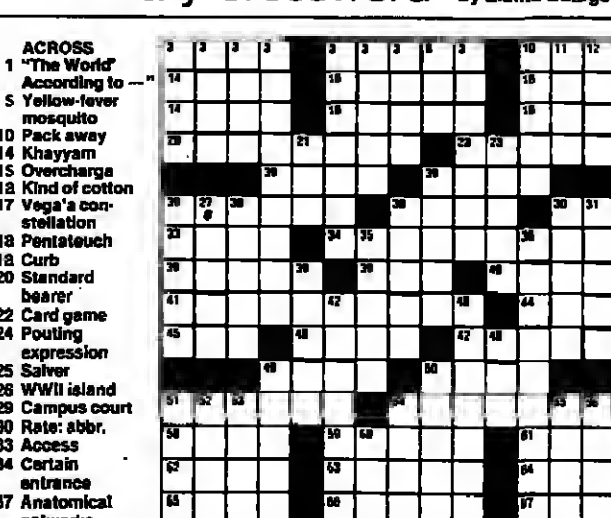
Mutt 'n' Jeff



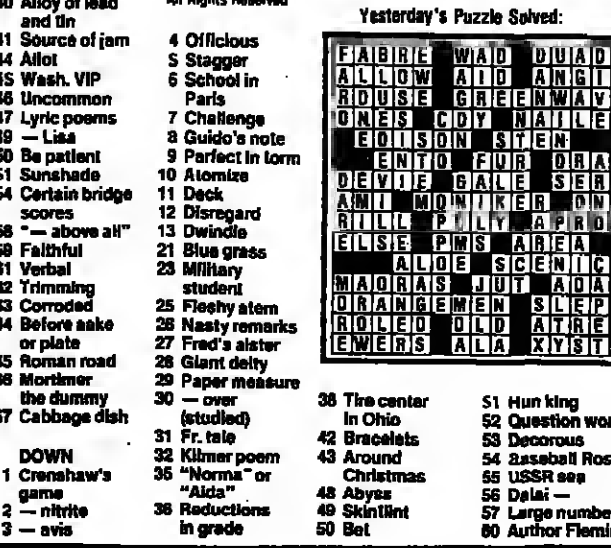
Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword By Elaine Gaurge



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U.S. announces team for talks with Soviets

Shultz hopes for early start to arms talks

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration has taken a further step towards renewed arms negotiations by announcing its team to lead talks with the Soviet Union.

Secretary of State George Shultz named the three-member team as Washington and Moscow continued diplomatic contacts to set a date for new negotiations on space weapons and long-range and medium-range nuclear missiles.

"I would hope the talks could get under way reasonably promptly," Mr. Shultz said.

His announcement was seen as an effort to keep the momentum going after his talks in Geneva with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on Jan. 7 and 8 to set the negotiating agenda.

The next event is expected to be the setting of a date and place for the negotiations. Mr. Reagan's National Security Adviser, Robert McFarlane, says he expects the talks to start in March.

Heading the negotiations will be Max Kampelman, a conservative Democrat who has no experience of arms control talks but is well versed in dealing with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Kampelman, who will head the "Star Wars" space and defence weapons talks, faced Soviet

negotiators for nearly three years at the European Security Conference in Madrid during a time of great tension over Polish martial law and the Soviet downing of a South Korean airliner.

Former Republican Party Senator John Tower, who will negotiate on strategic arms, has no experience of dealing with the Soviet Union. "I have a great deal of homework to do," he said Friday night.

Sen. Tower, a Texan who left the Senate on Jan. 3, opposed the SALT II arms treaty negotiated by former President Jimmy Carter. He became chairman of the Armed Services Committee after the Republicans won control of the Senate in 1980.

The third negotiator is a career diplomat, Maynard Glitman, who was deputy to negotiator Paul Nitze in the medium-range missile talks in Geneva. Mr. Nitze is now arms control adviser to Mr. Shultz in Washington.

Mr. Shultz said Edward Rowny, the former strategic arms negotiator, would also be an adviser. He denied that Mr. Rowny was

being shunted aside.

Mr. Nitze, considered more moderate on arms control, had asked to be relieved of full time negotiating responsibilities.

All three negotiators will take their instructions from Mr. Reagan, Mr. Shultz said. "This is very much a presidential operation."

Mr. Shultz bristled at suggestions the U.S. delegation was hawkish and inexperienced. "I don't think it's hawkish or whatever. I think it's a very powerful group with strong Washington back-up... It's pro-American, pro our allies," he said.

Mr. Kampelman is regarded as a tough negotiator but has had little or no arms control experience and will head probably the most contentious branch of the talks.

Moscow has focused on the issue of weapons in space, particularly Mr. Reagan's controversial Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) or "Star Wars" research programme, and suggested that the futuristic anti-missile plan might block other arms agreements.

"It's an absolutely terrific state," Mr. Shultz said. "Max Kampelman is really first class as are the other two... it reflects the president's determination to do everything possible to have these talks succeed."



WAR AGAINST SNOW: Italian army soldiers are working with "Leopard" tanks to clear the major streets of Milan from ice and snow. Fifteen tanks have been used in different locations in the city since Friday night (AP wirephoto)

Gandhi aide resigns after spy scandal

NEW DELHI (R) — India was rocked Saturday by a major spy scandal after the arrest of seven senior government officials and the resignation of the top aide of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

A member of the household of P.C. Alexander, Mr. Gandhi's principal secretary, told Reuters Saturday he had resigned but was not available for comment.

The Indian Express newspaper said one of the seven officials, arrested on suspicion of spying, was Mr. Alexander's personal secretary, T.N. Kher.

Sharda Prasad, Mr. Gandhi's press secretary, declined to say why Mr. Alexander had quit. "We are going to make no statement on this. No one is going to give more details, especially after the seven have appeared before a magistrate," he told Reuters.

They appeared Friday before magistrate Bharat Bhushan and were remanded in police custody for 10 days for interrogation. They included two bus-

inessmen, three officials working in Mr. Gandhi's secretariat and two officials in the Defence Ministry, Indian papers said Saturday.

Describing the arrests as "one of the biggest espionage rings in post-independence India," the Indian Express said they had access to vital and sensitive information, possibly including a top secret "blue book" of detailed guidelines for Mr. Gandhi's personal security.

The arrests were made on Thursday night and Friday morning after three weeks of 24-hour surveillance of the suspects, the paper said.

It said intelligence units had cracked a two-year-old ring which had leaked sensitive information on India's defence needs and capabilities and on secret planning about arms procurement.

Mr. Gandhi told parliament Friday: "Certain employees in sensitive positions were suspected of indulging in activities detrimental to the national interest."

Some arrests have been made in the course of investigations, which are still proceeding.

He gave no further details, saying this might hamper investigations.

Mr. Alexander had been principal secretary to the prime minister since June 1980, when he took the post at the invitation of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

A former college lecturer, he joined the elite Indian Administrative Service in the late 1940s and rose rapidly to become Commerce Secretary and head of a state organisation dealing with small-scale industries.

He also held posts in United Nations agencies twice before going to the prime minister's office.

Official sources told Reuters that, as principal secretary, he sat in on many key committees, including those on atomic energy and space.

38 die in Chinese air crash

PEKING (R) — Four Hong Kong Chinese and two Americans were among 38 people killed when a Chinese airliner crash landed at Jinan Airport in Shandong province Friday, a spokesman for the Chinese national carrier CAAC said Saturday.

A spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Peking said CAAC had identified and passed the names of the two U.S. citizens to the embassy and their relatives would be informed.

But the identities of the four Hong Kong people aboard the CAAC Soviet-built Antonov 24 were unknown and the airline was searching its passenger lists, the CAAC official told Reuters.

The aircraft was on a short flight north from Shanghai carrying a total of 34 passengers and seven crew when it crashed Friday evening on its approach to the runway at Jinan, the spokesman said.

Rescuers found three badly injured survivors who were now in hospital, he said.

The spokesman said he believed there were no other foreign nationals on board.

He said a team led by CAAC Deputy Director General Guo Hao was in Jinan to investigate the crash.

News of the crash carried first by the official New China News Agency earlier Saturday was generally more detailed than on previous such occasions.

In September 1983, 11 foreign tourists were killed when a military aircraft with 100 people on board ploughed into a CAAC Trident jet as it was about to take off for Peking.

Six Singaporeans, four Malaysians and a Hong Kong Chinese died in the accident and 19 tourists were injured as well as two Chinese crew members.



Saudis to start French newspaper

JEDDAH (R) — Saudi Arabia will start its first French-language newspaper in July, the English-language daily, the Saudi Gazette, reported Saturday. It said the new paper, appearing first as a weekly, will be published by the Jeddah-based Al Madina Press Organisation, publisher of the Arabic daily Al Madina. The newspaper, also to be called Al Madina, will be aimed at the French-speaking Muslim population in North Africa. Saudi Arabia at present has nine daily newspapers, two of them in English.

Charles, Diana to go skiing

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana will visit the tiny principality of Liechtenstein next week for a four-day ski holiday, Buckingham Palace said. A palace spokesman said the couple, both proficient skiers, would stay as guests of the Alpine state's royal family in a 700-year-old castle in the capital, Vaduz. Their first trip to Liechtenstein two years ago ended in uproar as press photographers pursued the Prince, heir to the British throne, and Princess on and off the ski slopes. The spokesman said the couple had agreed to meet photographers after their arrival next Thursday but would expect to be left alone after that.

Frozen girl brought back to life

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (R) — A three-year-old girl declared clinically dead after being found lying unconscious in the snow was brought back to life, doctors said. Megan Birmingham was found lying face down in the snow several hours after being reported missing. Her body temperature had dropped to minus 1 degree centigrade and she had no heartbeat, a hospital spokesman said. Doctors administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation for two hours and warm fluids were injected into her to raise her temperature, he said. She was listed in fair condition and had begun to talk. But hospital officials said it was not yet known if she had any permanent injuries.

Prominent Iranian theologian dies

LONDON (R) — Ayatollah Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeini, a prominent Iranian theologian, died in Tehran early Saturday at the age of 98, the National News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency, in a dispatch received here, said Prime Minister Hussein Mousavi had declared Saturday a day of national mourning. In a message of condolence, Iran's religious and revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini referred to Khomeini's outstanding services to theological schools.

Homosexuality law reformer dies

LONDON (R) — Social reformer Lord Wolfenden, who brought major revisions in British law on homosexuality and prostitution, has died aged 78, associates said Saturday. He chaired a committee whose report in 1957 led to the legalisation of homosexual acts between consenting adults. His proposals also cleared Central London of prostitutes soliciting on streets, by advancing greater penalties for public vice traffic, though prostitution itself was not outlawed.

Stuntman dies in TV helicopter crash

LOS ANGELES (R) — Reid Rombell, a stuntman doubling for actor Jan-Michael Vincent, was killed and a pilot was injured when their helicopter crashed during the filming of the television series "Air-Wolf," the officials said. The helicopter was flying in a stunt scene for the series, which stars Vincent and Ernest Borgnine, when it crashed into a hillside on the outskirts of Los Angeles and caught fire, the officials said. The scene of the accident was eight kilometres from where actor Mike Morrow and two children died when a helicopter crashed during the shooting of a scene for the film "Twilight Zone" in July 1982. Fire officials said the "Air-Wolf" pilot, Scott Maher, 46, was taken to hospital with concussion and numerous cuts.

NATO commander would welcome meeting with Warsaw Pact chief

BONN (R) — The American commander of NATO forces in Europe, General Bernard Rogers, was quoted Saturday as saying he would like to meet the Soviet commander of Warsaw Pact forces, Marshal Viktor Kulikov.

"There is always room for dialogue in our profession," Gen. Rogers was reported to have told a West German daily newspaper, the Neue Osnabruecker Zeitung. "There's a certain camaraderie among people in uniform," he added.

Gen. Rogers, NATO's supreme allied commander Europe, was

asked for his views on a meeting with Marshal Kulikov, commander-in-chief of the joint Warsaw Pact Armed Forces. In view of the superpowers' agreement to resume arms talks.

"I would like to sit down with him... hear his opinion and tell him mine," Gen. Rogers said. "I believe it would have a soothing effect on the people on both sides... if Marshal Kulikov and I met and this were made public."

He expressed optimism about the prospects of the arms talks, which will cover strategic and medium-range nuclear missiles

and space weapons, but he added: "The best we can expect is a step-by-step reduction."

However, even if there were an agreement, he saw no room for West Europe to save on conventional arms spending, saying NATO seriously lacks reserves in men and materials.

"My worry is that, faced with a possible conventional attack under present conditions... I could be forced, in line with my brief, to demand very quickly that my political superiors allow the use of nuclear warheads," he said.

Nicaragua accuses U.S. of blocking peace by halting talks

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has accused the Reagan administration of closing all channels for peace in Central America by suspending talks between them.

Mr. Tinoco, Nicaragua's representative in nine rounds of talks with U.S. special envoy to Central America Harry Shlaudeman, told Reuters he heard of the decision to suspend the talks on Thursday when he went to the U.S. embassy to fix a date for the 10th round.

A State Department official

said Friday the talks which started in June were being suspended because of regional negotiations toward signing a peace treaty.

He said the talks so far had been useful but had made no substantive progress.

The U.S. decision to suspend the talks was disclosed after an announcement in Washington that the United States would no longer take part in proceedings by the World Court in the Hague over Washington's support for right-wing rebels.

Explosion sets off Philippines hotel fire

MANILA (R) — A gift package being opened by a newlywed couple exploded and started a fire which gutted a government hotel in a Manila suburb, police said.

They did not say what the package contained but said the bride told them: "There was a smell of gas preceding the explosion."

Police said the blast occurred shortly after the couple entered a suite after their wedding reception at the Asian Institute of Tourism building in Quezon City, to which the hotel was attached.

They said the couple and two firemen were treated for burns and cuts while an American tourist who jumped off from the hotel's third floor into a fireman's net was taken to hospital for a check-up.

Maximum smog alert lifted in West Germany

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — Smog enveloping seven Ruhr Valley cities in the industrial heartland of West Germany thinned slightly Saturday, allowing health officials to downgrade a maximum smog alarm declared Friday.

The alarm was reduced from stage three, which banned all private traffic and shut down some industry, to stage two, which imposes restrictions on the use of private cars in peak periods and requires the use of low-sulphur fuel by power stations.

Health officials relaxed the alert when monitoring stations reported that sulphur dioxide and sulphur particle pollution had dropped below levels that triggered the stage-three alert for the western Ruhr Valley.

Friday evening commuters in the cities of Essen, Duisburg, Muehlheim, Wessel, Oberhausen, Krefeld and Bottrop, where more than 1.8 million live, have to leave their cars at home or parked where they were last used.

Although the restriction was eased by Saturday's decision, an entire Ruhr, including the eastern cities of Dortmund, Bochum, Hagen and Gelsenkirchen, remained under a stage-two alert.

Mitterrand endorses New Caledonia plan

NOUMEA (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand Saturday endorsed plans for independence in France's Pacific territory of New Caledonia and said he believed dialogue between opposing communities was still alive.

Mr. Mitterrand, addressing reporters at Noumea Airport at the end of a 12-hour visit to the troubled territory, said his talks with political leaders showed "the threads that we might have feared broken have been re-tied, the dialogue continues."

The president, jeered by 20,000 angry settlers when he arrived in the territory early Saturday, gave his full backing to proposals by his special envoy, Edgard Pisani, for a referendum there in July to decide whether New Caledonia should become independent next January.

"The course has been fixed, a timetable has been laid out, so things mustn't drag on longer than is reasonable," he said.

He added that he had seen Mr. Pisani's work and was returning to Paris "with the feeling that the instruments of success are in good hands."

Mr. Pisani clamped the territory under a state of emergency a week ago after riots by settlers opposed to independence and a series of racial clashes that killed 19 people in the past two months.

Militancy by indigenous Melanesian Kanaks demanding imm-

ediate independence has forced France to station 6,000 paratroopers and troops in New Caledonia.

The apparent purpose of Mr. Mitterrand's trip was to instil confidence in leaders of all factions to continue talks on independence.

He told reporters he had met political, trade union, business and religious leaders and learned exactly their points of view.

"The days that preceded this trip were difficult for everyone," Mr. Mitterrand said. "But wisdom has continued to inspire the main leaders here... I hope that my visit and my talks will help to deepen and strengthen (the dialogue)."

He added: "Proposals have been made. They indicate the objectives to be achieved, and certain ways of getting there. They are fully open to debate, discussion."

He said Mr. Pisani's plan was coherent and sought to reconcile the interests not only of the different communities in New Caledonia but also the interest of France.

Mr. Mitterrand concluded his short statement by saying he would speak more fully to reporters after his return to Paris and when he had more time for reflection.

Among those to meet Mr. Mitterrand was Kanak separatist leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou, who left shortly afterwards on a secret visit to France via Australia, Kanak sources said.

Salonga to work for opposition unity in Philippines

NEW YORK (AP) — Filipino opposition leader Jovito Salonga, on his way home after four years of voluntary exile, vowed to help unite the opposition in his nation, a cause he termed "far bigger than myself."

"I am returning to pitch in and heal the rift within the ranks of the opposition," Salonga told the Associated Press Friday in a telephone interview from Honolulu, from where he travelled to Hong Kong last Friday, and then to Manila, ending a stay in the United States begun in March 1981 for medical reasons.

Although Mr. Salonga, who leads faction of the Liberal Party, has been mentioned as a possible presidential candidate to succeed Ferdinand Marcos, 67, he said seeking the presidency was not his chief aim.

"My no. 1 goal is to achieve unity," he said. "If we continue to be divided and fragmented, there will be no presidential contender worth talking about."

Blind in one eye now and partially deaf, the 64-year-old former senator, considered a skillful orator and lawyer, has drawn up an ambitious political plan for his party, "Our vision," he said. "It is that of a free, just and democratic society where the basic needs of

our people will be met and their human rights will be respected."

Inherent to this vision is a pluralistic political system, a free media, more equitable distribution of income and a military "that will protect, not oppress, the people," Mr. Salonga said.

His dismissal as "a masterpiece of oversimplification" fears expressed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan that the only alternative to Mr. Marcos was Communism.

"The overwhelming majority of our people are neither for Marcos nor for the Communists," he contended, although he said if he were in power, he would support the legalisation of the Communist Party. "We are not afraid of the competition of the Communist idea in an open market — provided this Communism is not backed up by military violence."

Mr. Salonga assailed U.S. support of the Marcos government as "callous and insensitive," although he allowed he was "not as anti-American as some people think."

"We hope the United States government will stop thinking of the Philippines in terms of its military bases and begin thinking of us in terms of our basic human rights and the aspirations of our people for freedom, democracy

and justice," he said. "American foreign policy has propped up a dictatorship."

Mr. Salonga's homecoming scheduled for Monday, heralds the first major Philippine opposition leader to return from abroad since Benigno Aquino came back Aug. 21, 1983 and was shot to death on the tarmac of Manila International Airport. Both men had been outspoken critics of Mr. Marcos after he imposed martial law in 1972.

Sen. Aquino's assassination set off a wave of political unrest, economic turmoil and helped galvanise political opponents of Mr. Marcos. The opposition, however, since has been beset by struggles between different groups over how to select a presidential candidate should Mr. Marcos die or leave office before his term ends in 1987.

Since leaving the Philippines, Mr. Salonga said he has travelled extensively around the United States, giving university lectures and meeting with church groups. The son of a Presbyterian minister, he was until recently a commissioner for the World Council of Churches.

Mr. Salonga was charged with Sen. Aquino in a series of bombings beginning in 1979, but these

but most political analysts attributed his absence to sensible caution in view of the extreme cold that day.

Three days later he appeared at a televised medal-awarding ceremony in the Kremlin and spoke for about five minutes. It was announced the same day that the first Warsaw Pact summit for two years would be held in Sofia in mid-January.

However, Mr. Chernenko has not made an appearance since then and on Monday the summit was indefinitely postponed. No reason was given.

Diplomats said a deterioration in Mr. Chernenko's health preventing him from travelling was the most likely explanation. There were unconfirmed reports that a contingency plan to hold the summit in Moscow had also been shelved.

Soviet officials have not denied privately that Mr. Chernenko is ill but have made clear that they do not consider his condition to be serious.

The regular report on the politburo's routine Thursday meeting did not appear in the official press this week, but political analysts said this did not necessarily have any bearing on the president's health.

The absence of a report did not mean that no meeting took place and in any case it was not obligatory for Mr. Chernenko to attend, they said.

charges were dropped this week at the behest of Mr. Marcos, who said the move would allow Mr. Salonga "to pursue his political aspirations to the fullest."

Mr. Salonga returns with his wife, Lydia, and one of his sons, Eddie, who lives in Los Angeles. Despite the parallels with Sen. Aquino's fateful return to the Philippines, Mr. Salonga insisted he was not really frightened.

"Fear is a natural feeling, but strangely I do not seem to be afraid at all," Mr. Salonga said.

He said the government did not consider him as much of a "threat" as Sen. Aquino, who commanded a broader range of support, and that "it would be the height of folly for the regime to commit another atrocity." Army Gen. Fabian Ver was implicated along with 25 others in Sen. Aquino's slaying, which the opposition has blamed on the government.

Mr. Salonga himself has been the target of violence.

"I missed death by one millimetre," Mr. Salonga said, referring to the distance between his aorta — the body's main artery — and one of more than 100 pieces of shrapnel that lodged in his body when a bomb exploded at an opposition rally in Manila in 1971.